Hafa Adai!

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Heinz confident of a better performance in runoff. **PAGE 2**

Republicans dominate battle for Legislative seats. **PAGE 3**

POLL RESULTS

Are you happy with the interim final rule issued by DHS governing federalization of CNMI immigration?

Yes	73
No	115
Somewhat	23
No opinion	8

Sunday, November 08, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of November 6, 2009

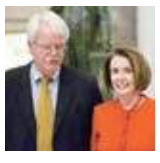
Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Universal Health Care



In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed landmark health care legislation Saturday night to expand coverage to tens of millions who lack it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry. Republican opposition was nearly unanimous.

Nation...Page 14

Heinz Hofschneider of the Republican Party casts his vote at the Garapan Elementary School. Hofschneder will be facing off with incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a runoff election—a first in the CNMI. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party casts his vote at 7:10am at the Garapan Elementary School. Fitial, who is seeking re-election, said he is very optimistic about his chances in the upcoming runoff election. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Independent gubernatorial candidate Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero, the first of four gubernatorial bets to fall in line at the Garapan Elementary School when polls opened at 7am, casts his vote. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" Guerrero casts his vote at 9:10am at the Garapan Elementary School. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Independents to seal Heinz or Fitial victory

Gubernatorial race to be decided by runoff

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thousands of supporters of the two losing independent gubernatorial candidates in Saturday's peaceful and orderly elections will seal the victory of either Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider or Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party in the first ever runoff election to be held in the CNMI.

Both said they are "confident" they will get the support of the independent voters.

Hofschneider topped Fitial by only eight votes—the closest gubernatorial election in the history of the CNMI. The unofficial tally by the Commonwealth Election Commission showed that Hofschneider garnered 4,900 votes while Fitial got 4,892 votes.

In separate interviews after the last votes were counted shortly after 5am on Sunday, Fitial and Hofschneider said they share the same platform and vision with independent candidates Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and former senator Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero.

As of yesterday, Guerrero said he has yet to meet with his core team and supporters to discuss, among other things, the runoff election and whether they will support either of the candidates.

See INDEPENDENTS on Page 4

86 percent turnout in polls—CEC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

This year's general election drew a total of 13,784 voters to the polling booths, comprising 85 percent of the total number of registered voters in the Commonwealth.

According to Election Commission Web site, there are 16,108 registered voters on three islands, including over 2,000 absentee voters.

This year's turnout is lower than the 93 percent that was recorded in the 2005 gubernatorial election, when 12,511 voters showed up at the polls. In the 2001 general elections, voter turnout was a comparatively dismal 78 percent.

Election board chair Frances M. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that during Saturday's counting and tabulation of ballots, the commission recorded 15 spoiled ballots from absentee voters. These ballots were rejected due to the absence of the required affidavit for absentee voting.

Sablan said this number translates to less than 1 percent of the total 2,060 absentee ballots they processed during the counting.

She said the ballots that were considered good were at 95 percent. Although there were a handful of "over-votes" encountered, many of them were processed by the commission.

See 86 PERCENT on Page 4

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Local

Heinz confident of a better performance in runoff

Says GOP platform includes visions of Juan Pan, Kumoi

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republican Party standard bearer Heinz Hofschneider, who topped the four-way gubernatorial race on Saturday, is confident his team will be able to sustain its "good momentum" in the runoff against incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Hofschneider, who led by just eight votes over Fitial, vowed to work better in the next two weeks to ensure his victory in the next electoral exercise.

He is counting on the supporters of both Juan T. Guerrero and Ramon Deleon Guerrero to give him the overwhelming advantage in the runoff. The two independent candidates got a combined total of 3,744 votes during the election. Hofschneider's team got 4,900 votes versus Fitial's team of 4,892.

"I am confident that people will not repeat the same mistake in potentially going for another four years of difficulties and hardships. Our team is also confident that we are reaching over to Juan Pan's and Kumoi's supporters because they will realize that we have the visions that they saw in both of them. They will come around and support us," he told *Saipan Tribune* moments after the unofficial results were known early Sunday.

Hofschneider said no election district will be left behind in the extensive campaign he and his running mate, Arnold Palacios, will launch in the next days.

Based on the unofficial results of the Commonwealth Election Commission, the Hofschneider-Palacios team's only significant advantage over the Fitial-Inos team was in the absentee ballots, where they had a 194-vote difference. It was a much closer fight in the elections districts.

"This is like the playoff in a baseball series. Now that it is over, the clock starts ticking. In this historical runoff, I expect that people would really assess what happened today. With the vision and the know-how, I think we will be more aggressive in reaching out to people," he said.

Hofschneider, who initially thought he had 108 more votes than Fitial, described the figure as close to his target. "It [108 votes] is close to my target," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

But he emphasized that the team needs to work more for each and every precinct and districts.

"I know that we will do much better in two weeks in all the districts and we will not single out any district because all of them are important," he said.

There are 16,108 registered voters in the CNMI, according to the Election Commission's Web site, including over 2,000 absentee voters.

Of this number, over 13,500 actually cast their votes last Saturday.

Hofschneider said the "discouragement" of over 2,000 people who did not participate in the election was due to many factors.

Among these, Hofschneider said, were the transfer of the tabulation from one precinct to another, the discouraging situation in Garapan where the commission moved the voter's entrance from the school's main gate to the MIHA entrance, and the existence of the names of "deceased" individuals on the voter's lists.

"The complications created by the Election Commission to move the voting entrance in Garapan to MIHA complicated this election, not only for me but

See HEINZ on Page 4

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the "Supervisory Council" of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold a Business and Award Meeting on Friday, November 13, 2009, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., Annex Room, Pacific Island Club, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES *(October 17, 2008)*
V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Chairman's Remarks/Overview, Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
- b. Executive Director's Report, Jerome Ierome
- c. Review and Approval of Sub-grant Application:
  1. **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Edward Byrne Memorial Program, FY2009**
  2. **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program: FY2009**

VI. OLD BUSINESS
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested individuals are welcome to attend. Should you need more information, please call CJPA at 664-4550-7. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairperson

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by the (JAG) grant of the Office of Justice Programs and the (VAWA) grant of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

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Republicans dominate battle for Legislative seats

Ex-Gov. Froilan Tenorio makes political comeback

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

The Republican Party dominated the elections at the Legislative level with former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio of the Covenant Party making a political comeback by winning a House seat.

According to unofficial results of the Commonwealth Election Commission's tabulation of the votes for the Legislature, those who emerged on top are made up of 13 Republicans, seven Covenant Party candidates, and six independent candidates.

In the Senatorial races, four newcomers prevailed while two incumbents managed to cling on to their seats.

On Saipan, Ralph Anthony DLG Torres (Republican), who came on top in the House's race in Election District 1 in the November 2007 election, secured the top position in the Senate with a whopping 4,661 votes.

Senate President Pete Pangelinan Reyes (Republican), a veteran politician, managed to hold the last of the two positions as he received 2,947 votes.

Former Representative Jacinta M. Kaipat (Covenant) came short with 2,784 votes, followed by Rep. Justo S. Quitugua (Democrat) with 2,635 votes.

Rep. Christina Marie Elise Sablan (Independent) was fifth with 2,331 votes. Former Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo (Covenant) got 1,667 votes, followed by Paul William Camacho (Independent) who had 937. Controversial Gregorio Sanchez Cruz of Taotao Tano (Independent) came last with only 815 votes.

On Tinian, Francisco Quichu-chu Cruz (Republican) secured the top spot with 698 votes. Incumbent Senator Jude Untalan Hofschneider defended his seat by garnering 637 votes.

Joaquin Hoashi Borja (Covenant) and incumbent Senator Joseph M. Mendiola came short with 564 and 549 votes, respectively.

On Rota, newcomers Jovita M. Taimanao and Juan M. Ayuyu (both Independents) bested four other candidates, including incumbent Senator Paterno S. Hocog (Independent), by securing the two top positions with 578 and 544 votes, respectively.

In the House race for Precinct 1, five of six top voters are from Republicans. Only one from the Covenant made it to the Magic 5—former governor Froilan Tenorio who grabbed the second slot with 1,671.

Former lieutenant governor and incumbent Rep. Diego T. Benavente proved he is still a dominant political leader at Precinct 1 as he emerged on top among 13 candidates with 2,028 votes.

The others who broke into the Magic 6 are Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero with 1,634 votes, followed by former Immigration official Antonio P. Sablan with 1,498 votes, Joseph M. Palacios with 1,494, and Eliceo D. Cabrera with 1,485.

For Precinct 2, two Covenants prevailed. Incumbent Rep. Raymond Demapan Palacios had 494 votes and Rafael S. Demapan received 381.

Precinct III was the most crowded among the precincts as 14 candidates battled for six House seats.

Again, three Republicans prevailed—incumbents Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb with 1,221 votes; Rep. Ray N. Yumul with 1,197 votes; and Francisco S. Dela Cruz with 1,151 votes.

Felicidad T. Ogumoro (Covenant) took the fourth seat with 1,140 votes, followed by Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez with 1,079.

Veteran Rep. Stanley Torres (Independent) held the last spot with 1,078 votes.

For Precinct 4, Sylvestre I. Iguel (Covenant) and George N. Camacho (Independent) grabbed the two seats with 618 and 554 votes respectively.

For Precinct 5, Frederick Peters Deleon Guerrero (Independent) and Ramon Sablan Basa (Covenant) took the two seats with 775 and 664 votes respectively. Incumbent Rep. Rosemond B. Santos (Republican) was fifth among eight candidates as she received 415 votes.

With respect to Tinian's race for a single House seat, Trenton Brian Conner (Republican) secured the position by beating his only opponent—incumbent Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Covenant). Conner had 651 votes, while Aldan only had 550.

On Rota's battle between two Independents for the lone House seat, Teresita A. Santos prevailed as she had 695 votes as compared to 604 votes from her rival—Ross Hugh S. Manglona.

Blanco-Maratita, Guerrero are reelected to BOE posts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incumbent chairwoman and vice chairman of the NMI State Board of Education Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Herman T. Guerrero were reelected during Saturday's general elections.

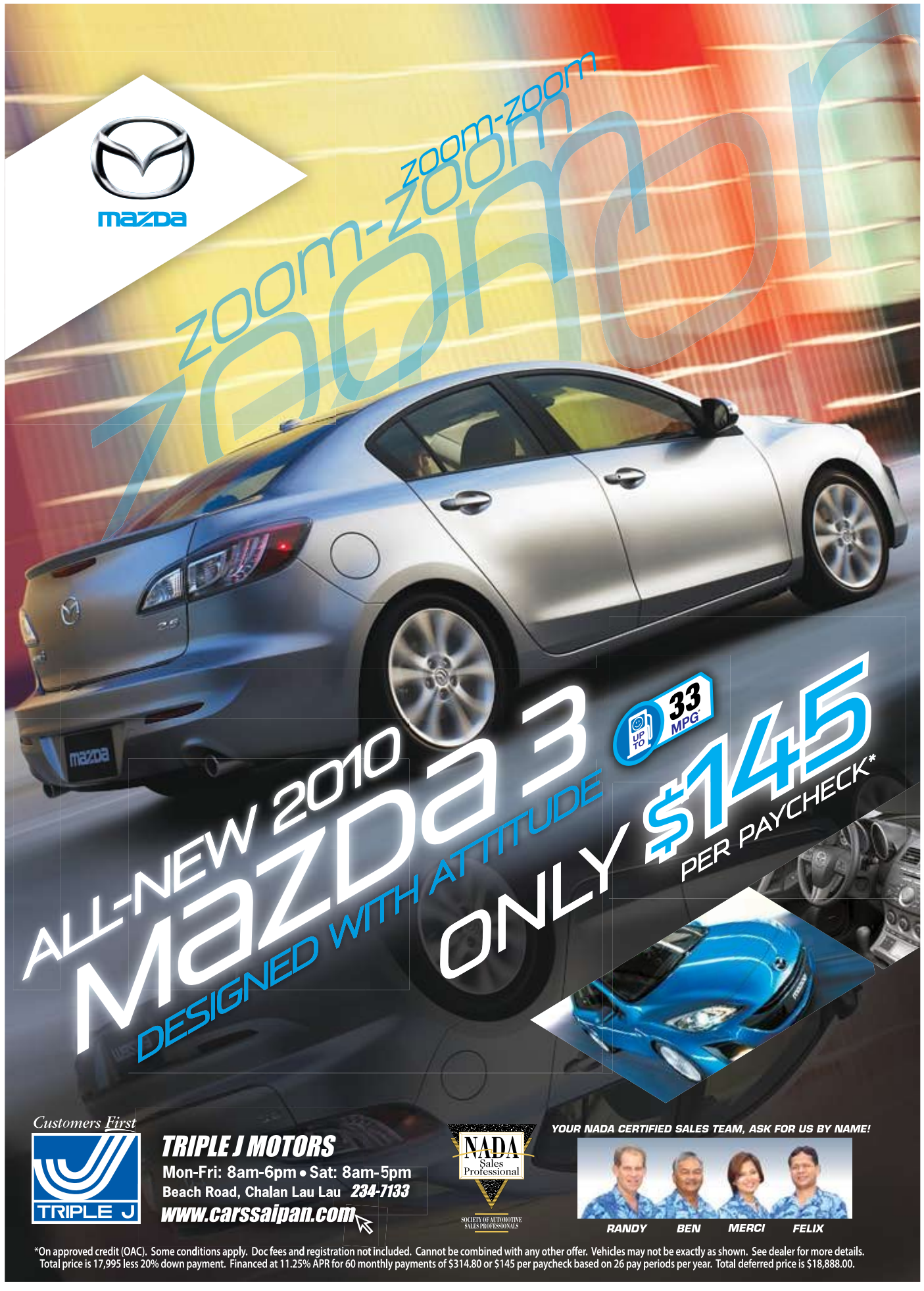
Blanco-Maratita was opposed by James M. Mendiola for the lone seat available for Tinian BOE.

Unofficial results from the Commonwealth Election Commission showed that the incumbent chairwoman received 641 total votes compared to Mendiola's 619 for a 22-vote advantage

Yesterday, the chairwoman said she was honored by the decision made by the people of Tinian.

"I am honored that the Tinian voters have chosen me to continue with the work that I am doing on the Board of Education. [with our other members we will] continue working on several initiatives to improve our education system for the benefit of all students," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she believes that voters chose her

See BOE on Next Page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INDEPENDENTS

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero could not be reached for comment when the unofficial voting results came out.

Both Fitial and Hofschneider are already banking on independent voters for the runoff election, which will take place just days before the federal takeover of local immigration on Nov. 28.

"I think we stand a better and greater chance to win the runoff because I am closer to Juan Pan and Kumoi," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Covenant Party headquarters on Middle Road shortly before 6am on Sunday.

Hofschneider, in a separate interview at the Republican Party headquarters in As Lito, said his team will sustain the "good momentum" in the runoff.

"Our team is also confident that we are reaching over to Juan Pan's and Kumoi's supporters because they will realize that we have the vision that they saw in both of them. They will come around and support us," he said.

Runoff

The tandem of Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and the team of Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos each got 35 percent of the 13,784 votes cast, out of the 16,108 voters who registered for the Nov. 7 elections.

Voter turnout stood at only 86 percent. This is much lower than the 93 percent recorded in the 2005 gubernatorial elections where Fitial edged Hofschneider by just 99 votes.

Because none of the gubernatorial candidates on Saturday got at least 6,892 votes, which represent 50 percent plus 1 of the 13,784 actual votes cast, a runoff is required. There are a total of 16,108 registered Commonwealth voters.

This is the first time a gubernatorial runoff election will be held in the CNMI.

The Commonwealth Election Commission has 10 days to certify the election results but the agency hinted that it may be able to certify the results by Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The runoff election will be held within 14 days after the commission certifies the results of the Nov. 7 voting.

In Saturday's election, independent Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and his running mate, House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, received 2,643 votes, while another independent candidate, Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero and his running mate, Dr. David M. Borja, got 1,101 votes.

Tooth and nail

The polls opened at 7am on Saturday and closed at 7pm.

The Commonwealth Election Commission started tabulating the absentee ballots at 10pm. The ballots from Rota and Tinian arrived at 10:35pm.

Robert Guerrero, the commission's executive director, announced the results of the absentee ballots at 11:45pm. Hofschneider edged Fitial in the absentee votes, 792-598.

This is the first time that three of four gubernatorial candidates traveled to the U.S. mainland to meet with off island voters. Absentee voters doubled in 2009, from only about 1,000 in 2005.

Hofschneider's 194-vote lead narrowed to just 125 when results of the voting in Election District 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe) were announced. He only got 321 votes compared to Fitial's 390.

Hofschneider maintained a 150-vote lead when he received 1,166 votes from Election District 1 versus Fitial's 1,141. This district includes San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville and is a known bailiwick of Hofschneider, who received 1,599 votes in 2005 compared to Fitial's 1,106.

When Election District 5 (Kagman) votes were counted, Hofschneider's lead slightly went up to 158, with the GOP bet getting 648 votes compared to Fitial's 640.

A reversal of fortune began when Fitial's 458 votes from Election District 3A (Oleai) came in; Hofschneider got only 151. Fitial was ahead of Hofschneider by 149 votes at this time. Oleai is a known bailiwick of the governor.

When Election District 7 (Rota) votes were counted, Fitial maintained an overall 137-vote lead, despite Hofschneider getting a higher number of votes from Rota, 792-598. Guerrero won the Rota race, getting 294 votes.

Fitial's overall lead narrowed to just 29 when he got 589 votes from Election District 3B (Garapan); Hofschneider got 697. Garapan is a hotly contested election district, with over 2,600 registered voters.

The incumbent governor's overall lead widened a bit to 53 when results of Election District 4A (Tanapag) voting were counted. He got 180 votes, while Hofschneider got 156.

Fitial got 129 votes from Election District 4B (San Roque) while Hofschneider got 145, narrowing the governor's lead to 37.

Hofschneider regained his overall edge over Fitial when ballots from Election District 6 (Tinian) were counted. Tinian gave Hofschneider 406 votes compared to Fitial's 332—a 37-vote lead.

Election District 4C (Capitol Hill) gave Hofschneider an overall lead of 59 over Fitial. Hofschneider got 122 votes in this district, while the governor got 100.

The crowd at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the counting was held, was silent as the result of the last election district was read by the Election Commission's executive director.

Fitial won Election District 4D (Northern Islands), 88-37, but this failed to topple Hofschneider's total lead of eight votes.

Hofschneider received total votes of 4,900 while Fitial ended up getting 4,892 votes—the narrowest margin in a gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

The election commission asked media organizations to wait a little longer to tally the votes to confirm the eight-point lead.

When the unofficial tally came out, reporters set out to the campaign headquarters of Fitial on Middle Road, and Hofschneider in As Lito.

Inos, the running mate of Fitial, said they haven't gotten any sleep, waiting for the counting to end.

Fitial was in high spirits during the interview but he said he feels sleepy. "Some people asked me, 'are you worried?' I said 'how can a sleepy person be worried?'"

Election Day

Even before the polling places opened at 7am, there was already a long line at the Garapan Elementary School polling station.

Independent gubernatorial bet Ramon "Kumoi" Deleon Guerrero was already in line when Fitial arrived at 7:05am. Fitial's supporters, however, asked the governor and his wife to take their place in front of the line to be able to vote early.

Thus Fitial was the first among gubernatorial candidates to cast his vote,

See INDEPENDENTS on Next Page

UNOFFICIAL 2009 ELECTIONS RESULTS

Governor/Lt. Governor (Runoff)

1. Heinz S. Hofschneider/ Arnold I. Palacios	**4,900**
2. Benigno R. Fitial/Eloy R. Inos	**4,892**

Senate

Ralph DLG. Torres (Saipan and Northern Islands)
Pete P. Reyes (Saipan and Northern Islands)
Juan M. Ayuyu (Rota)
Jovita M. Taimanao (Rota)
Francisco Q. Quichuchu (Tinian and Aquigan)
Jude U. Hofchneider (Tinian and Aquigan)

House of Representatives

Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (District 1)
Froilan C. Tenorio (District 1)
Diego T. Benavente (District 1)
Eliceo D. Cabrera (District 1)
Joseph M. Palacios (District 1)
Antonio P. Sablan (District 1)
Rafael S. Demapan (District 2)
Raymond D. Palacios (District 2)
Stanley M. Torres (District 3)
Felicidad T. Ogumoro (District 3)
Ray N. Yumul (District 3)
Edmund S. Villagomez (District 3)
Ramon A. Tebuteb (District 3)
Francisco C. Dela Cruz (District 3)
George N. Camacho (District 4)
Sylvestre I. Iguel (District 4)
Ramon S. Basa (District 5)
Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (District 5)
Trenton B. Conner (District 6)
Teresita A. Santos (District 7)

Mayor

Donald G. Flores (Saipan)
Ramon M. Dela Cruz (Tinian and Aquigan)
Melchor I. Atalig (Rota)
Tobias D.C. Aldan (Northern Islands)

For a complete listing visit www.saipantribune.com and click on 2009 Elections Results link

REPORTERS NOTEBOOK

REPORTERS NOTEBOOK
BY SAIPAN TRIBUNE STAFF

Alcohol sale may have been banned from 7am to 7pm on Election Day, but not betel nuts, which were given for free and passed around in candidates' turfs near polling places.

■■■

Because of the seven-hour tabulation and counting from 10pm Saturday to past 5am Sunday, at least two media representatives could not control their sleepiness and dozed off for at least an hour.

■■■

Students at San Vicente Elementary School took advantage of the busy election day to sell ornamental plants to voters to raise funds for an agricultural project.

■■■

A poll supervisor at Election District 1A at San Antonio Elementary School banned a reporter from entering the polling station despite presenting a media pass, only to inquire about the initial turnout.

■■■

When a government employee heard that the Election Commission hired a chopper for $10,000 just to get the votes of four residents on Agrihan, he said: "Next time, maybe they can just relay their votes over the radio."

■■■

The roadside campaign near the Kagman Community Center on Election Day was very lively. Some people had a barbecue, while one political party brought a loud stereo. Some supporters from different political parties danced to the music as they waved their hands to passing motorists along the narrow road.

■■■

Many voters were surprised upon learning that the entrance to the polling place at Garapan Elementary School was moved to the back. As a result, some cars double parked on the roads at the housing area. "This is chaotic!" quipped gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" Tenorio Guerrero.

86 PERCENT

From Page 1

For the over-votes and under-votes, the commissioners allowed the counting of other portions that were deemed properly filled.

Sablan said it took them more than three hours to process all the absentee ballots, delaying the entire counting process.

The commission also put black stickers on "unreadable" ballots. CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said many of these were absentee ballots because they were marked with a pen rather than a pencil and voters used check marks for their choices instead of blackening the oval.

Guerrero said the law authorizes the commissioners to decide on cases like these. Unlike spoiled ballots that are rejected, ballots that are considered over-votes and under-votes are still counted.

Both Sablan and Guerrero expressed satisfaction with the overall turnout of the election.

They expect a similar or even a higher turnout during the upcoming runoff election between the Republican Party tandem of Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios against Covenant Party standard bearers Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy Inos. The two teams were the highest vote-getters in the four-way gubernatorial race on Saturday.

Sablan said that, besides "minor" glitches on the absentee ballots, the commission did not have any major problems during the election.

This election year, the commission used the entrance of MIHA Housing to the Garapan Elementary School as the entrance to the polling booths to comply with the 300-feet radius requirement. The voters' entrance used to be the main gate in front.

At the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, *Saipan Tribune* learned that voters and election workers suffered a bit of discomfort due to a few fans available.

Sablan said the commission is hoping that candidates will lend some electric fans in the next election.

HEINZ

From Page 2

to all candidates. Many people were really angry and they just turned around and walked away and I didn't know if they came back to vote," Hofschneider said.

He said this also made it more difficult for elderly voters, who needed to walk a longer distance to the gates, in addition to the lack of parking spaces.

If not for these "problems," Hofschneider said, the number of voters would have gone up.

The lower turnout, he said, is also because many people feel that the election is no longer important to them due to the many empty promises, "and we don't blame the voters for feeling that way because our job as candidates is really to convince them because this is their right."

Had all of the 16,108 registered voters cast their votes last Saturday, the GOP tandem would have gotten an 800 to 1,000-vote advantage over Fitial, Hofschneider said.

"I was probably off by 800 to 1,000 total votes cast," he said, adding that the "cohesiveness" of the GOP party candidates enabled the success in the general election.

Hofschneider became the party's standard bearer after beating former governor Juan N. Babauta in the GOP primary held in June. Hofschneider won the primary with about 53 percent of the votes cast. Hofschneider won six of the eight precincts.

In Saturday's general election, the Heinz-Arnold tandem led in four election districts and in the absentee ballots.

BOE

From Page 3

based on what she accomplished in the past four years.

"I know that our Tinian community is especially concerned with ensuring that we have adequate, qualified teachers and staff and that our students are afforded the same opportunities for success afforded to any other student within PSS. This is an issue that I will continue to work on through improvement of our policies and/or to work with the system in the areas of recruitment and capacity building,' Blanco-Maratita said.

She added that she also likes to work on improving the opportunities for community involvement in the schools and looks forward to working with the new local and CNMI leadership on other issues that may affect the educational system.

"I believe that team work and partnerships, focused on the goal of ensuring the best education for our kids, are extremely important," she added.

Herman T. Guerrero, who run unopposed this election, received an overwhelming 7,331 votes from the people of Saipan.

The bulk of the votes came from District 1 with 2,136 and District 3 with 1,624 votes.

Also a satisfying turnout was received from the people of Kagman, or District 5, with total 1,284 votes.

In District 2, Guerrero received total 658 votes; 651 in District 4; and 978 from absentee voters. Prior to becoming the board's vice chairman, Guerrero was the board's chairperson.

BOE board is a five-member body comprised of three members from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian. Other members include Marylou S. Ada, Galvin Deleon Guerrero for Saipan and Tanya King for Rota.

NMI elects four new mayors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four new mayors are expected to take over in January after besting their respective opponents in Saturday's general election.

Two of the incoming mayors are independent contenders, while two others won under the Republican Party ticket.

On Saipan, Donald G. Flores of the local GOP won by a wide margin over his eight other opponents from different political groups.

Flores received an overwhelming 2,310 votes, including 287 from absentee voters. This is a 728-vote advantage over Covenant Party's Marian Tudela, who was the second highest vote-getter with 1,582.

The incoming mayor will succeed Juan B. Tudela to the position once results are certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Unofficial data indicated that Flores had a strong showing in almost all of the five election districts and absentee ballots.

In District 1, he received a total of 742 votes. In District 2, he got 174; District 3, 513; District 4, 208; and District 5, 386.

Democratic Party bet Angelo Villagomez got the third highest number of votes, with 1,583. Other independent contenders got the following votes: Roman Benavente, 1,487; Lino Tenorio, 1,487; Antonio Camacho, 566; Jose Sanchez, 517; Candido Taman, 414; and Juan Demapan, 278.

On Tinian, incumbent Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas of the Covenant Party was defeated by Republican Party contender Ramon Dela Cruz in a two-way mayoralty race. Dela Cruz, who enjoyed a 131-vote advantage over San Nicolas, got 696 votes, with 237 coming from absentee voters. His opponent got just 565 votes.

On Rota, three independent candidates vied for the position of last-termer Mayor Joseph Inos of the Covenant Party. Voters on the island chose Melchor Mendiola, who got 547 votes against his opponents Victor Hocog, who got 98 votes, and Steve King Mesngon, who got 341 votes.

On Northern Islands, incumbent mayor Valentin Taisacan will be succeeded by a new mayor, Tobias Aldan, who ran as an independent candidate.

Tobias defeated Covenant Party's Ramona Rebuenog by a single vote. Tobias got 69 votes against Rebuenog's 68 votes.

INDEPENDENTS

From Page 4

at 7:10am.

Deleon Guerrero cast his vote at 7:10am.

"I feel good. When I feel good, I'm going 60 percent," Deleon Guerrero, a former senator, told *Saipan Tribune* right after exiting the polling place.

He said those "people suffering from the fuel surcharge" will make him win the elections.

Fitial, right after voting, said he feels "great. I feel very, very good. I also want all people to feel good when they vote."

He and his wife, first lady Josie Fitial, attended Mass at the San Jose Parish Church before voting.

"I'm very optimistic," the governor added, when asked about his chance of being re-elected.

Businessman Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, an independent gubernatorial candidate, arrived at his campaign tent outside Garapan Elementary School around 8:30am and walked with his supporters to the polling station to vote at 9:10am.

He said there's a need for a change in CNMI leadership.

Also early in line at the same polling place was Saipan mayoral bet Angelo Villagomez.

Hofschneider and his wife arrived at the polling place at 6pm and cast their votes at 6:10pm. His running mate, Palacios, along with his wife, cast their votes at 5pm.

"I'm very confident. Arnold and I, we've done our outreach for the last 10 months. I think we've done well in reaching out to the community, in their houses, in rallies," Hofschneider said after voting.

'Unfortunate'

Lani Iguel, 23, finished voting at the Tanapag Youth Center at 10am.

Iguel said she didn't know there are three legislative initiatives and one popular initiative included on the ballot.

Questions about the four initiatives are on the reverse or back side of the ballot.

"I didn't even know there's something at the back. I didn't know about those," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider said it is "unfortunate" that there are voters who forgot or didn't know about the inclusion of the initiatives on the ballot.

Sharisse Rivera, 19, said that voting for only the second time in her life—and the first for a gubernatorial race—made her "nervous."

"What if I made a mistake?" she asked. She was with her mother, who waited for her outside the polling station.

Angelina Phillips, 18, said she's excited to vote for the first time. She fell in line at the Garapan Elementary School at 7:37am. "I will vote straight for one party," she said.

Congratulations

From Washington, D.C., Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan congratulated all voters and candidates in Saturday's elections.

"On Saturday, once again, a record breaking 84 percent of registered voters in the Northern Mariana Islands exercised their right to vote. Nowhere else in America do so many Americans take this civic responsibility so seriously. I congratulate all of these voters. And I congratulate all the candidates who gave the voters many different options for leadership," he said in a statement.

Sablan is a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

He said that, except for the gubernatorial election, which will require a runoff, the unofficial results seem to make clear who the leaders will be in the coming years.

"I pledge to respect the choices that voters made and to work cooperatively with all to advance the interest of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Greg M. Camacho, chairman of the Covenant Party, also congratulated all the candidates for showing a good fight.

The CNMI has 16,108 registered voters, including more than 2,000 absentee voters. More than half of the 110 certified candidates were running as independents for various positions in the CNMI government.

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
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Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

SAVE THE DATE!
GUAM/CNMI MILITARY CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES SYMPOSIUM
Hosted by the Office of U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, CNMI, FSM, and Palau
Wednesday, November 18
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saipan World Resort
A pre-event mixer is scheduled for
November 17, 5:00 p.m.
Saipan World Resort
Learn first-hand from the experts. Topics will include U.S. Military contracting, business opportunities available through military construction projects, the military build-up, and so much more. The symposium is intended for all CNMI residents interested in business opportunities with the U.S. Military. Registration will be required. Seating will be limited.
Look for additional details to be available in follow-on advertisements in this newspaper.
Co-hosted by:
NAVFAC
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

Eight elected to municipal councils

Election Commission to decide on legislative initiatives

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight individuals won municipal council seats on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and will be sworn into office once results are certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Last Saturday, 11 candidates ran for the three vacant seats for the municipal council of Rota, which was eventually won by Arvin Ogo, George Hocog, and Prudencio Manglona. They bested eight other contenders for the position.

Unofficial election result showed that Ogo got 657 votes; Hocog garnered 511; and Manglona received 459.

Topping the race on Tinian were Patrick Manglona who got 701 votes followed by Esteven Cabrera and Joseph Cruz with 675 and 627 votes, respectively.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were six candidates who vied for the three vacant positions.

On Saipan, Ramon Camacho and Eric Diaz emerged as the new members of the municipal council after running unopposed last Saturday. Camacho got 5,195 votes while Diaz received 5,133.

Up for discussion

The legal counsel for the election commission, Atty. Meaghan Hassel Shearer, yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that the commissioners will meet today to discuss and certify the election results.

He said no decision has been made on the four initiatives that were included in the ballot and ratified by the people.

According to law, an amendment proposed by legislative initiative shall become effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast, while an amendment proposed by constitutional convention or by popular initiative shall become effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast and at least two-thirds of the votes cast in each of two senatorial districts.

One of the four initiatives on Saturday's ballot was the Open Government Act. The initiative received 6,597 yes votes with 3,047 negative votes.

Saipan Tribune learned that the commission recorded 13,784 total actual votes cast in Saturday's general election.

Hassel Shearer admitted that they have yet to know the status of the initiative until the board meets and discuss about the definition of "votes cast' and "counted."

She said the public should wait for the commission's decision after today's meeting.

The three other initiatives on the ballot included House Legislative 15-3, which calls for the Board of Education adding a high school student to its ranks. It received 5,353 affirmative votes against 4,059 negative votes.

Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11, meantime, got 5,644 yes votes while 4,064 voted no to its ratification. The initiative pertains to holding regular general elections only in even-numbered years.

House Legislative 16-11, which prohibits the withdrawal of any funds from the general fund, received affirmative votes of 5,476 against negative votes of 4,272.

'Election was smooth, peaceful'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Although there were incidents of minor verbal confrontation among political supporters, Saturday's election in the CNMI was generally smooth and peaceful, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Capt. Lawrence Camacho, the DPS commander in charge of the election operation, told *Saipan Tribune* Saturday night that they responded to cases of heckling or exchanging of words by overexcited supporters somewhere in San Vicente, Koblerville, and Garapan.

Camacho, however, said they managed to handle the situation.

"Overall it was peaceful. I want to thank all the people here for making this a very smooth election," Camacho said.

He said they got calls of complaints from individuals involving banners, loud music, and waving or campaigning within 300 feet from the polling places.

Camacho said they sent officers who would provide the supporters a copy of the law.

"We tried to be lenient as possible to voters and supporters to comply. We advised them to please comply. But usually, they complied," the police official said, adding that no one was arrested.

He said the heckling did not reach to a point where physical fights erupted.

DPS deployed 40 more police officers in addition to the regular officers assigned on Saturday. Two officers were sent each to Tinian and Rota. Of the 40 officers, three failed to show up for various personal reasons.

With respect to the election on Tinian and Rota, Camacho said he did not receive from DPS supervisors of any problems occurred on the two islands.

He said his instruction is to call him immediately whenever there is a problem even minor ones.

"I would like to thank the voters and supporters. I believe that the people know how to comply. And I really appreciate that on behalf of the department," Camacho added.

Chopper hired to get 4 votes on Agrihan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission spent over $10,000 to hire a helicopter to get the votes of four residents of Agrihan.

Saipan Tribune learned that the chopper carrying two designated poll workers and a police officer left Saipan for Agrihan at 8:30am on Saturday.

After getting the votes of four residents, the chopper returned to Saipan at 3:30pm.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Election Board chair Frances M. Sablan confirmed that they hired a helicopter to fly to Agrihan and get the votes of four residents there.

"That is a tradition and at the same time our obligation to make sure that we get all the votes," Sablan said.

She said two designated poll workers were aboard the helicopter.

When asked for the exact cost of hiring the helicopter, Sablan said she is not aware of the specific amount but that it was around the $10,000 figure.

Last month, Super Typhoon Choi-Wan devastated Agrihan and Alamagan.

The remaining eight residents of Alamagan were safely evacuated to Saipan, but the four residents on Agrihan opted to stay on the island.

PBS Guam to go digital

PBS Guam, formerly KGTF-TV12, will upgrade to a fully digital broadcast facility with funds from a grant awarded on Sept. 22, 2009, by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) grant will provide the full $199,500 needed for the station's master control room upgrade.

"The existing master control unit is decades old with an outdated analog unit whose manufacturer is no longer in business," said Sam Mabini, Ph.D., general manager for PBS Guam. "This upgrade means more automation and a true advancement to our operations."

The grant money will fund a new master control digital switcher and related terminal gear including program and preview monitors, a processor and routers, a sync generator, a video distribution amplifier, a signal distribution amplifier, and an audio distribution amplifier. In addition, the PTFP award will purchase an Emergency Alert System receiver and decoder.

Guam Educational Telecommunications Corp. applied for considerations of a 100 percent federal share of the project as allowed by the Omnibus Insular Areas Act, which permits a 100 percent waiver of matching funds up to $200,000 and is applicable to the U.S. territory of Guam.

Through matching grants, the PTFP assists in the planning and construction of public telecommunications facilities in order to extend delivery of services to as many citizens as possible by the most cost-effective means, including the use of broadcast and non-broadcast technologies; increase public telecommunications services and facilities available to, operated by, and controlled by minorities and women; and strengthen the capability of existing public television and radio stations to provide public telecommunications services to the public.

For more information, please contact Sam Mabini at 734-3476, or e-mail smabini@pbsguam.org. ***(PR)***

Life fire training, laser ops at FDM

The Emergency Management Office, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting HSC-25 Live Fire Training and Laser Ops on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule date and time are as follows:

- Nov. 9, 2009 from 1pm to 7pm – Hsc-25 Live Fire Training and Laser Ops
- Nov. 10 from 8:30am to 7pm – Hsc- 25 and 20 EBS Live Fire Training and Laser Ops
- Nov. 11-13 7am to 1am – 20 EBS Live Fire Training and Laser Ops

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

High surf advisory in effect today

Based on the information received from National Weather service in Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Management, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the general public that high surf advisory is now in effect until Monday noon.

Expect hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet through Monday morning, decreasing to 8 to 11 feet Monday afternoon. Ipan buoy currently is reporting 8 to 9 foot swell with a period of 13 seconds, which suggests 11 to 12 foot surf.

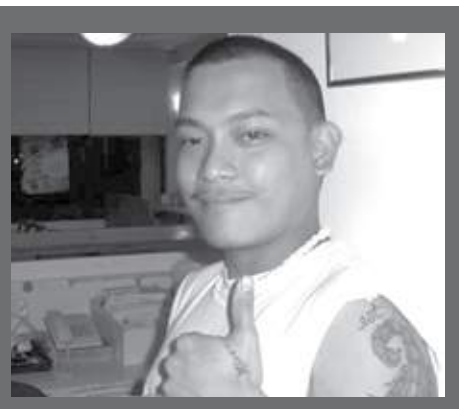
Therefore, Fitial is strongly advising the general public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially those along north and east exposures, as rip currents are life threatening. ***(PR)***

Fitial

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings to Carlos "Brat" Rivera. Hands up this is it! Make your day! Happy, happy birthday and more blessings! Love always your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTEDPHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD

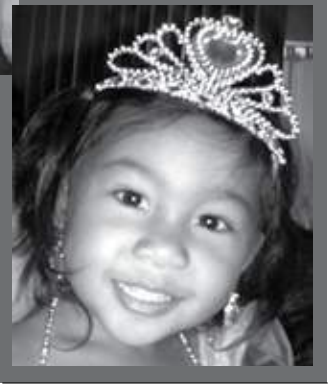
Happy birthday Dad! Hope you have a good one and we love you very much! From your girls.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT

A special birthday shout out goes out to Melissa Benjamin who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 9. Wishing you more to come and we love you! In the picture are her kids Evan and Mia. Greetings from your families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY

Happy third birthday Princess Lia. You are truly God's blessing to me. I love you Pumpkin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JUAN PAN TENORIO GUERRERO & JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO

THANK YOU

to our countless volunteers and supporters
for your untiring efforts, selfless giving, and prayers.

And most of all, thank you to the voters who expressed your confidence in us at the polls.
Over this past year, we have become braver, stronger, and better individuals because of all of you.

We, and our families, are grateful and humbled by your individual and
collective expressions of support.

We now urge each of you to consider carefully the candidates in the run-off election and,
as you did when voting for us, we ask you to follow your heart and mind in voting
for the most qualified of those candidates.

Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero

Joseph James Norita Camacho

EXPERIENCE • HARD WORK • SOLUTIONS

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Japan to speed decision on relocation of US base

ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan will speed up its review of a deal to move a major U.S. military base on the southern island of Okinawa, officials said Thursday, but no final decision was expected in time for President Barack Obama's visit to Tokyo next week.

To smooth the way for the visit, Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, Washington's top envoy in Asia, was in Tokyo on Thursday to meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada to discuss the leaders' agenda.

"We are making our best efforts to find the most appropriate solutions to the base allocation issue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yasuhisa Kawamura said. "We are accelerating the review process."

He said, however, he could not say when a decision might be announced.

AP

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell, right, meets Japan's Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009.

Although the leaders are expected to discuss a broad range of issues, from climate change to Japan's assistance to Afghanistan, the base issue is likely to dominate during Obama's Nov. 12-13 visit.

Washington and Tokyo agreed in 2006 under Japan's previous administration that the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma would be relocated to another part of Okinawa, and 8,000 Marines transferred from Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam by 2014.

Japan's new government, however, has not yet committed to the deal. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama suggested before he took office in September that the base should be moved off Okinawa, but the U.S. simply wants it relocated to a less crowded area of the island.

The United States has about 47,000 troops in Japan under a mutual security pact, more than half on Okinawa.

Hatoyama's government has said it wants to adopt a more independent, less subservient relationship with Washington—while still stressing the two nations' security alliance remained the "cornerstone" of Japan's diplomacy.

Cabinet members within the Hatoyama administration have said sometimes conflicting things about the base relocation issue, underlining growing pains for the young government, which came to power after decades of virtual one-party rule by the staunchly pro-U.S. Liberal Democratic Party.

Two weeks ago in Tokyo, Defense Secretary Robert Gates took a tough stance, insisting that any alternatives to the 2006 agreement were untenable and urged Japan to resolve the Futenma issue before Obama's visit—but Hatoyama has said he is in no rush to do so.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grants includes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) and Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

The amounts available under each program are listed below less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI. The breakdown of these program funds are as follows:

I. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants

1. Title II Formula Grant: FY2008: $5,560.00. FY2009: $40,000.00
The OJJDP Title II Formula Grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program have four core-requirements. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

Note: *The Youth Advisory Council has planned for this year, to place priority funding towards needed programs such as diversion programs, alternatives to detention, and other programs catered towards dealing with juvenile status offenders. An evidenced based model programs guide has been developed by OJJDP for the reference of interested sub-grant applicants. It is available at* http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/. *Please review it for your programs as OJJDP is requiring the implementation of more evidence based programs.*

2. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2009: $7,953.00.
Established in the 1992 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974,†the Title V Community Prevention Grants Program is a Federal grants program that†funds collaborative, community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program†integrates six fundamental principles: (comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective) to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. It†provides funding and a†framework to enable communities to†develop and implement comprehensive 3-year†prevention plans that†are designed to reduce risk factors associated with†delinquency and decrease†juvenile problem behavior.

3. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2009 $72,000.00
The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 3796ee et esq). As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile offender, accountability means an assurance of facing individualized consequences through which he or she is made aware of and held responsible for the loss, damage, or injury that the victim experiences. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-qualified agencies-programs mentioned below, *must* submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, which includes an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

Under this grant, these agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $12,000.00; DYS-JDU: $12,000.00; DYS-JPU: $12,000.00; PDO-Juv.: $12,000.00; OAG-Juv.: $12,000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $12,000.00.***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2009 $312,000.00
The OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant Program supports and enhances efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. (Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.)

Pre-qualified agencies-programs mentioned below, *must* submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, which includes an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

Under this grant, these agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00; Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00; Commerce ABTC $50,000.00.*** The following amounts are available to other interested and qualified applicants that will conduct EUDL programs under these purpose areas: ***EUDL Innovative Programs: $100,000.00; EUDL Public Advertising: $12,000.00.***

II. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Program: FY2009 $279,821.00
As one of five bureaus within the Office of Justice Programs, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) was established by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. The VOCA Assistance Program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant process consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by CJPA. The Youth Advisory Council and the Supervisory Council are expected to meet early December 2009. Meeting announcements will be forthcoming.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2009.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill.

For more information please contact CJPA at 664-4550 or you may contact the individual program manager at CJPA at 664-4551 Vincent Camacho (OJJDP) and 664-4556 John Cruz (VOCA) or stop by our office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp. Please indicate and specify which grant program you are applying for on the application. Should you have any question or concerns, you may call or email Mr. Jerome Ierome, the CJPA Executive Director, at jerome.ierome@cjpagov.mp

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Pacific diplomatic row deepens

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—New Zealand and Australia expelled Fiji's top diplomats Wednesday after the military-ruled nation threw out their emissaries, and the Australian leader vowed to stay tough on Fiji to prevent a coup culture from spreading.

It was the latest sniping among the three nations since Australia and New Zealand took the lead internationally in condemning armed forces commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama's 2006 coup, and in efforts to force him to restore democracy.

"We have taken a deliberately hard-line approach to this regime because we do not want this coup culture to spread elsewhere in the Pacific," Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Wednesday.

Despite instability and economic turmoil wrought by four coups since 1987, Fiji's is one of the wealthiest and most influential countries in the largely impoverished and aid-dependent South Pacific region.

Rebels who ousted the Solomon Islands government in 2000 cited a coup that year in Fiji as inspiration, prompting Canberra to recast its regional military strategy to deal with what it called an "arc of instability" stretching from East Timor into the South Pacific.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOV. 9, 1999

Deficit hits $80M million in FY 98

CNMI's cumulative deficit ballooned to more than $80 million by the end of fiscal year 1998, up by about $23 million from previous record, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. He said the deficit would have been bigger had his administration not put in place cost-cutting measures that had drastically reduced government expenditures since assuming office in January 1998. Tenorio attributed the increase to outstanding accounts left behind by his predecessor which his administration had to pay back. He did not provide specific details, although a report based on the independent single financial audit of Deloitte & Touche will be released within the next few weeks.

CUC to reassess Saipan's power demand

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday agreed to reconsider the initial plan on the controversial Saipan power plant, a move that has drew protests from bidders who feared that it would further push back the project. Board directors voted to expand the services of independent experts to include an evaluation on the current and future power supply needs on the island and a feasibility study on the proposed 80-megawatt plant. The government-owned utility firm will spend another $45,000 for the services on top of close to $100,000 paid to Burns & McDonnell when it undertook a nine-month reevaluation of various offers submitted for the project.

NOV. 9, 2000

Teno, Filipino community bag RP Presidential Awards

His commitment to promote the well-being and uplift the conditions of some 20,000 Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas earned for CNMI Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio the coveted Year 2000 Philippine Presidential Banaag Awards. The Presidential Awards is a biennial worldwide search for Filipino individuals and organizations, as well as foreign individuals, whose works have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and time honored-values of pakikipag-kapwa (brotherhood), pagtutulungan (cooperation), and pagkakaisa (unity). The CNMI-based Filipino community, consisting businessman Rodrigo Ceron, the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, the Marianas Association of Filipino CPA, VizMinda, and the L & T Group of Companies on Saipan, collectively won the Presidential Kaakabay ng Bayan Award.

Power rate hike looms

In what may be a prelude to power rate hike in the next few months, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will commission a study to reassess the impact to its operations of the rising fuel costs and ever increasing number of delinquent customers. CUC directors are expected to give their go-signal in hiring experts to conduct the review during a scheduled board meeting today. But Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said there is no firm plan yet on rate increases as the study could take for a while before coming up with its findings.

NOV. 9, 2001

Woman sustains rashes from suspected anthrax-laced mail

At least 40 persons at a Garapan hospital underwent a decontamination process—an immediate medical aid to anthrax—after a woman went inside the hospital for sustaining rashes on her hands upon opening a suspicious mail containing a white, powdery susbtance. As this developed, the FBI came into the picture, as agents joined local emergency response units in the second anthrax scare in the CNMI. But while some of the victims were being treated at the left-most corner of the parking lot fronting the Pacific Medical Center, another woman told the Saipan Tribune that she, too, received a package with a white, powdery substance last Saturday. The package allegedly came from California.

BB administration, private sector partnership sought

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Richard Pierce yesterday urged all businessmen to form partnership with the incoming administration of Governor-elect Juan N. Babauta. Speaking before the members of the Chamber, Pierce said the election will deliver the business community into a new partnership with newly-elected Commonwealth leaders. "I would like to take a look into our short-term future, outline a blueprint for the Chamber's preliminaries with respect to our work with the next CNMI Administration and Legislature," said the Chamber president.

2009 General Election

Independent candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero walks with his daughter Jolene to the Garapan Elementary School polling station at 9am during Saturday's CNMI general elections. Guerrero finished third in a four-way gubernatorial race that will lead to a runoff between the top two candidates: Republican Heinz S. Hofschneider and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Robert Guerrero, left, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, confers with election clerk Frank Camacho, right, during the counting of ballots at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Saturday night. The tabulation and counting lasted until past 5am on Sunday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Unmindful of the sun, Covenant Party supporters wave to the passing crowd and motorists in Kagman.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Poll workers carry ballot boxes to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe at 8:05pm on Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, right, answers a question from *Saipan Tribune* reporter Moneth Deposa, left, in an interview at past 5am on Sunday at the Republican headquarters in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Supporters of Independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and his running mate, House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, pose for a photo near the Garapan Elementary School polling station.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Covenant Party candidate for House of Representatives Tomas Camacho, right, with his supporters near the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School polling station in San Roque.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Independent gubernatorial candidate Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero casts his vote at 7:20am at Garapan Elementary School.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Republican Party supporters gather near the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School polling station in San Roque.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

1 TORRES, Stanley Tudela Mcginnis
for Representative
"APRE-BAO" "METGUT"
"BIBA PRECINCT 3"
• MAULEG • E GHATCH • GOOD •
• NGU-NGIIL • MAGALING •
"THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE"

Republican Rep. Stanley Torres, left, with his supporters near the Garapan Elementary School polling station.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

After Fort Hood

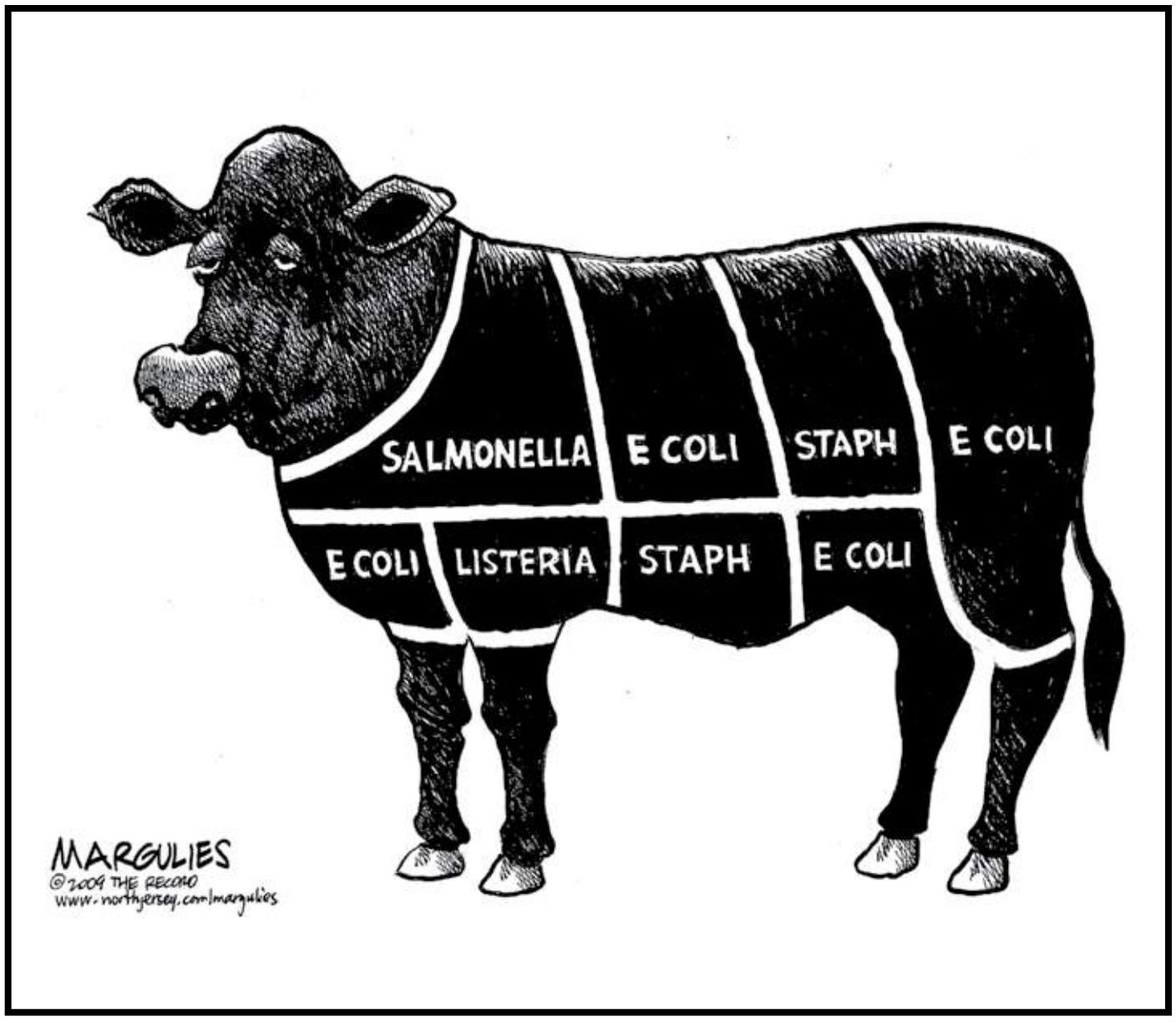
President Obama was right to warn on Friday, in the aftermath of the horrific Fort Hood, Texas, slayings, "against jumping to conclusions until we have all the facts." It will be too easy for some to make that mistake, given the Arab heritage of alleged gunman Nidal Malik Hasan, his reported daily attendance at a Silver Spring, Md., mosque during his years in Washington and the anti-Muslim harassment that a relative said he endured in the Army. In fact, the terrible crime of which Hasan is accused was not the expression of any faith, nor the work of a terrorist organization, but rather, it appears, the act of an evil or deranged individual. It says nothing about American Muslims—an estimated 3,000 of whom serve honorably in the armed forces. Hasan's own family issued a statement calling the attack "despicable and deplorable." "Our family loves America," the statement said.

One of the most obvious questions as investigations go forward is whether the FBI or military authorities missed an opportunity to prevent Hasan from acting. The Associated Press reported that the suspect came to the attention of law enforcement at least six months ago because of Internet postings that praised suicide bombers. Other reports said that he had been counseled because of poor performance while training as a psychiatrist, that he had been resisting a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan, and that he had been trying to leave the military. Were disgruntlement and threatening behavior taken seriously enough?

Investigators also will need to determine how Hasan managed to smuggle weapons and ammunition into the post facility where he launched his attack, in spite of rules prohibiting the carrying of loaded weapons. The soldiers who were gunned down—many of whom were preparing for deployment to a war zone — were unarmed. Only the heroic intervention of a civilian police officer, Sgt. Kimberly Munley, stopped the rampage.

Hasan, a psychiatrist, was assigned to help soldiers suffering from the terrible stresses of war and repeated deployments abroad. Fort Hood has had its share of such trouble, with 10 suicides reported this year. During his eight years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, relatives said, Hasan was deeply bothered by the cases of post-traumatic stress disorder he saw. But it was Hasan, not those suffering men and women, who chose to turn a gun on his fellow service members. Whether he did so out of calculation or madness, he inflicted a grievous wound on the men and women of Fort Hood—one that the nation must now do its best to salve.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



An open letter to all the winning candidates!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to all of you for being elected to political office. You have worked hard and deserve the position you have won. For the next two to four years you will be managing the future and fortune of our community by the decisions you make. You possess awesome powers to improve our community and our lives. Your decisions will impact on us hopefully in a positive way. We have placed our faith and trust in you to lead us.

Please understand that being a lawmaker is a duty, not a job. As a good soldier pledges his duty to his country, each of you must pledge your duty the same way. As mentioned above, we have chosen you because we believe and trust in you. Of all the virtues, "trust" is one of the most important ones. And to betray that trust bestowed in you is one of the most heinous crimes you can commit against us your constituents. What part of a man or woman is left after trust is destroyed?

It is ironical that as our representatives, many of you are not trusted by the general public. Recently I read a survey taken about a variety of occupations. Various occupations were ranked with 1 as the highest and 4 as the lowest.

The highest trustworthy occupation was dentistry with a rank of 1.43, followed by clergymen with 1.44. The survey revealed that the lowest trusted occupation was that of salesman with a rank of 3.29. But guess what the second lowest trustworthy occupation was? Politics—with a rank of 3.18! Why is that? What do politicians do to earn such low esteem?

You are the catalyst and hope for leading us back to prosperity. But before you can do that you must realize exactly what your functions at the Legislature and Senate are and how powerful you are. I hope that all of you will cut out the following pledge and place it squarely in the middle of your desk and glance at it daily:

By the trust given to me, I pledge to honestly represent the people of the CNMI. My duty is to help the people. I pledge this honor above all else. I shall seek only what is good for the general public. I will never sacrifice my duty for personal gain—so help me God!

Basically the way I understand your function, you, the Legislature decides what happens in our community. Everything starts with you. Bills having to do with money, taxes, conduct affecting us citizens, appointments to government agencies, education, business, budget expenditures—bills for everything. When these bills become laws they dictate our course of action. It all starts with you, ladies and gentlemen.

The administration then implements and enforces the laws that you create. It does not create laws. It only carries them out. Remember you also have the power to override any veto by the governor when he refuses to sign one of your bills. In fact, the Administration is often rebuffed by you if the laws you pass don't produce the results intended. In many ways, you, the legislators, dictate to the Administration what you want done by the awesome powers you possess.

At times it amazes me when you esteemed ladies and gentlemen forget, or do not fully grasp, this basic concept. Your actions and attitudes set the tone for all of us citizens. You are the backbone for economic development or the lack of it because you decide what types and to what extent businesses can be conducted in the CNMI. In plain words—**You—the Legislature—possess tremendous power over this island and over our lives!**

We, the private citizens, look on in amazement at the antics that sometimes go on in your legislative halls. Some of you have personal agendas. Some of you have no agendas but simply play "follow the leader" whoever he is and wherever he leads. Some of you simply tread water and do little if anything at all. All the while you enjoy the pomp and ceremony and financial benefits that go with your office. Please stop this disgraceful action. We voted for you to lead us.

Strive for unified cooperation. Many times there is little unified cooperation. We all know that without a unified goal, we simply cannot achieve what this community needs. I encourage you to stand tall and be proud that you have been elected to lead. Let us feel your strength and let us profit from your wisdom. Being a lawmaker is not a job. It is a duty!

You, the Legislature, must assume the role you have chosen for yourself. When you campaigned, you promised to help revitalize the country. You must do away with any private agenda. You must put the CNMI ahead of any personal goal. The CNMI must take top priority in all your thoughts and

See OPEN LETTER on Next Page

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The morning after

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Monday morning quarterbacking is a national pastime. It referred to post-football games analyses when the game was just a weekend phenomenon. Now that football games are aired daily, the phrase has become a metaphor to the comfortable swivel-chaired pundits as they speculate after an event on how things might have gone differently had certain variables occurred.

There will be a lot of figuring out what could have been done differently in this election. After all, we all grew up with oft-quoted Santayana's *"He who does not remember the past is bound to repeat it."* The Pinoys have their Rizal's *"He who looks not at where s/he came from, will not see where s/he is going."*

Nice platitudes. The fact is, we choose what to remember, and our propensity to live in illusion rather than reality, to prefer comfort and ease over authenticity and truth, render the above quotes immaterial. Regrettably, reality has a way of intruding into our illusions, shattering our comforting balloons that we might be allowed to see more clearly what we normally refuse to see.

We begin by acknowledging the moment, then forge through to the thicket of tomorrow. Recognition goes to the 110-some candidates who, for whatever reason, put their names and personalities into the public domain for everyone's scrutiny. After the 40-some chosen individuals, that leaves seventy possible volunteers to community service available for the plucking!

We also acknowledge VoteCNMI wisdom: only a few votes separate those elected and those who are not, and it is thereby strategic for any group of similar context and parallel interests to be literary prepared, audio-visually enlightened, and socially organized, were they to impact the result of the next election. We need to continue conversing with one another. So we find ourselves going back to the polls to choose between Ben/Eloy and Heinz/Arnold. That seems like a clear choice between two different options. The more critical question now that the communal ritual is done is: what directions might we want to head now? And how do we make it happen?

The most critical one to me is a focus on our context and orientation. Though a cultural challenge, it will have to be dealt with politically and economically. Harry Blalock's lament on the thieving going on around us is but a tip of the iceberg. Frank Agulto's objection notwithstanding, we are an island of thieves.

I joined a friend to farm his 10-acre hillside and propagate some *ilang-ilang* flowers, fruit trees and vegetables in the manner practiced as permaculture, so I procured two tools to assist in clearing deadwood and overgrown foliage. Someone walked into the farm house and just walked out with the unpacked chainsaw with not a word of by-your-leave nor even a gesture of gratitude! A pouch of betel nuts would have sufficed. *Ladron, ne?* Having lived through nine break-ins at the old STaRPO office at CK losing all kinds of valuables have taught me to invest in dead bolts but even then, a cagey thief recently lifted out of my room a month's rent and a Sony H-10 digital camera.

A fence offering laptops, mp3/4s, cameras, cell phones, jewelries, assorted DFS products, etc., at highly reduced price is also an "ice" dealer, and we do not mean what Pellegrino makes. As any drug enforcement officer knows, the use of chemical stimulants is rampant across economic class lines, and the issue has gone way beyond just the efficient and effective enforcement of existing laws. It is a battle of context and orientation. With no more prominent an athlete as Agassi acknowledging his recreational use of 'ice,' why would we be surprised that Johnny Angel and Bobbie Barbie grow up to puff the vapor?

When our school systems are designed so that we are clear our intent is to wallop the competition (as we tried to do in response to the Russian Sputnik), in recent years, the global market competition, or, when we hear politicians and business people claim that the function of education is to prepare workers for the job market, or, when we hear foreign and military policy wonks justify wars we wage for the protection of the resources we need to continue our way (read, consumerism gone market wild) of life, then we are clear that the depth of our contextual contradiction is deep and foreboding.

The challenge of educating everyone on the art of living a human life before we teach the skills of making a living, should be obvious, but that is not the case here. Even our forensic leagues aim for bragging rights before it is a refinement of skills; debates in our hollowed halls do not enlighten but are out to stultify if not to embarrass the other party.

The task before us now is to shake off our ancient prejudices and rebuild our lives. We need skilled conversationalists to host more public interfaces and interchanges, not as a program of the Humanities, but as a regular feature even of friendly sunrise breakfast powwows and sunset BBQs.

We need teachers to focus more on students' behavior rather than their SAT scores. Am advocating a fourth R to reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. It is called "reflection," and that means, human beings becoming conscious in the way they support their lives (economic), decide in the social arena (political), and articulate the reason they rise in the morning (cultural). Can do?

The thieving? We're a tiny island. It would not take much to have all the S/Ns of equipment sold or brought into the island in a master list. We can ask tourists to voluntarily provide theirs at registration. All pawnshops will refer to the list before accepting any items. Sandy Tudela can check his boys and girls' cadre of informers so as not to give the appearance that some are too cozy with the blue shirts! And really, am I too naïve to wonder why large quantities of onions get imported from New Zealand via China? Yo, K9?

So, let's get back to work! Begin with our own hearts and minds! Start reflecting on why we do things, or allow things to be done, before we do them again. Good Morning, CNMI.

Rimulinon Chubasku

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gi todu finaposta, guaha `nai ta fagchae` didog na rimulinu gi haanita. Guaha `nai ta sustene kabales hinasota gi halom este na chinatsaga. Guaha lokue `nai maliñgon ñaihon kabales na hinasota sa` pot man-tautau hit ha`. Magahet na solu un` pega papa` i añklan espirituat `nai siña safu hau gi halom pipinu` yan piligru na chubaskun linala`. Hulu yan papa` gi halom dañkulun lañgat, hihot mabasiha hau lau fitme añklamu sa` esta un` liuf gi halom tasi.

Guaha `nai makat esta hu komprende un` teug` asuntu. Hu pega un` ratu gi un` banda para bai` rikohen ñaihon hinasoghu. Hu arastreha amanu `nai gaige haleña ayu na problema yan kau gai dadalagña. Adumididi umanog ya dispues de hu komprende kabales, sigi lokue mumaliñgu `nai kinilili` ni minachom atdao. Siña buente ta dispacha añklan espirituat yan dignu na estau pot hita mismu. Lau mientras ti un` yuyute` gi sagaña este na añkla gi linala`mu, pues gai tiempu lumailai hau gi halom tadoñg yan diskalentau na tasi kulan pidason hayu ni tai direksion.

Este na añkla siempre ninae` hau sensian inañgoghu gi fuetsan tinayuyut. Gi ti apmam na tiempu siempre pasifiku hinasomu ya mas libre hau fumana todu klasen mattiru yan chinatsaga. Era, esta un` entrega i Saina todus nu I haanimu.

■ ■ ■

Tanu Natibu

Tumotohge un` amku gi hilu un` dañkulu yan taduñg na sabana. Ha guguot kanai ñietu (grandson) ya sige de kumasau. Inatan nu i patgon ya finaisen: "Hafa tata na tumatañges hau?" Humagoñg i amku dispues ilegña:

"I federat ti tufuñgun na promesa ha offrese ham na esta malefayu ni minigaiña. Lau ha promesa para u chule` tanu mame ya ha chule!". Estague masusede gi grupon Indian (Native Americans) giya Estados Unidos de America `nai fuetsau i federat ha ñega direchon niha sin ditension.

■ ■ ■

Nuebu na diakanu manae` primet tarehaña para u enteru un` matai. Lau guihe na haane megai mampus kareta gi chalan. Dispues, abag i prohimu ya atrasau para i simienteyu. `Nai mattu guatu halie` na mahuchum esta i naftan. Ensegidas ha tutuhon manaita. I dos empleau guihe uma`atan ya ilegña i unu: "Hafa mohon na ti tasañge i diakanu na tañken taki` ayu i pagu ha bendidise?" Dios mihu!

Letter to the Editor

Winners

Congratulations to every single candidate who ran in this election. More than a hundred people ran with their own vision, ideas, and principles. More than a hundred people ran because they believed that they could make the Commonwealth a better place to live. Many sacrificed their jobs, faced public criticism, had their lives examined and scrutinized, and spent a small fortune in campaigning.

All the votes have been counted, and the results are in. It is important to remember that there are no losers. Every single person who ran for public office should hold their head up high, regardless of whether they finished first or last, regardless of whether they got 8,000 votes or eight votes. It takes tremendous courage to run for public office, and for that, you are a winner.

The very best of luck to each and every one of you and God bless.

Ed Propst
Dandan

OPEN LETTER

From Page 10

actions. Unless you truly believe and show that in your actions, we will only go round and round in circles. To believe in something, is to live it!

As a member of the Legislature you must encourage potential investors to invest in our islands. But equally important is that you encourage our citizens to become businesspeople. You must encourage us to explore the opportunities within our islands. Encouragement coming from you means so much because we look up to you.

How many of you will motivate local farmers to improve and increase their crop production? How many of you will encourage our youth to learn a trade or profession? You must motivate them to reach out and make their dreams come true. How many of you can feel the pain and despair that so many of our people feel? Will you try to get them off food stamps and encourage them to learn a trade or profession?

You can make all this happen if you have the will and determination. Come on, ladies and gentlemen, help out. You have the power! Your motto must be: **I have been elected to lead! Duty to my country comes first!**

By your sincerity and commitment to our Commonwealth, we can once again rise like the legendary Phoenix bird did from its own ashes. By being determined and acting in a unified manner and with fine examples, we can overcome seemingly insurmountable setbacks.

May God grant you the courage to do the right thing. May He also grant you the wisdom to know what you can and cannot do. May He grant you the determination to lead bravely at any cost.

Though you will not assume office until Jan. 11, 2010, start learning now what you have to do. Search out and define the major problems plaguing the CNMI. Study carefully the effects some of the laws are having on our community. Consider especially what effect federalization will have on us. Understand fully the intentions of the Homeland Security presence here. Read about the legislative process. Talk to your fellow lawmakers and begin to set up a climate for exchange of ideas. Please do not waste this valuable time before you assume office. Use it wisely. You have much to do in so little time.

Keep in mind that when you finally leave office, what do you want to be remembered for? What legacy will you leave us? A wise man once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others lives on forever!"

Daily we live and hope for a better future with our faith and trust in you. Do not forsake us. Lead and we shall follow! Again congratulations for being elected our representatives. May God bless you all!

Sincerely,
All Your Concerned Constituents

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. North winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

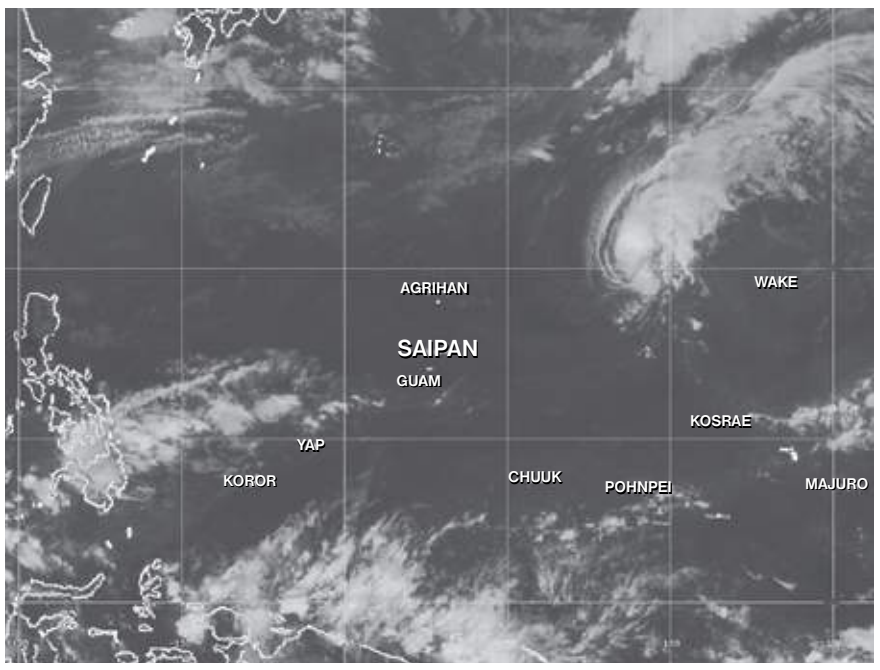
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Sunny	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼45
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲83	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲86	▼60
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼44
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼52
Paris	Cloudy	▲49	▼38
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Rome	Thunder Storms	▲61	▼53
Salem	Cloudy	▲53	▼40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼54
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm 25W with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph is centered southeast of Minami Tori Shima at 21N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with 25W are found between Minami Tori Shima and Wake Island within 150 miles of a line From 19N158E to 25N162E. For more information on 25W, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and NWS advisories under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap between 10N and 13N from 130E to 140E, and farther south between the equator and 4N from 132E to145E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:26 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:04 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:46 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:52 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:59 PM	12:07 AM
Tuesday		12:52 AM
Wednesday	12:56 AM	1:34 PM
Thursday	1:51 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	2:46 AM	2:55 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Jobless: 10 percent is tougher than it used to be

WASHINGTON (AP)—It hurts more to be unemployed now than the last time the jobless rate hit 10 percent.

Americans have more than triple the debt they had in 1982, and less than half the savings. They spend 10 weeks longer off the job. And a bigger share of them have no health insurance, leaving them one medical emergency away from financial ruin.

For these reasons, the unemployed are more vulnerable today to foreclosure and bankruptcy than they were a generation ago.

Donald Schenk knows. He's been without work both times. It's worse now, he says.

Back in the early 1980s, when Schenk lost his job at a phone company, he was able to find several temporary jobs—including one testing pinball machines—to make ends meet until he landed full-time work nearly two years later.

But now Schenk, 55, of the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg, Ill., has been seeking work for a year and a half after losing his information technology job. Potential employers aren't interested "if you are not a perfect fit," he says.

The unemployment rate hit 10.2 percent in October. All told, 15.7 million Americans are out of work. Add in workers forced to settle for part-time work or those who have simply given up looking, and the rate is 17.5 percent.

Only twice since World War II has unemployment topped 10 percent—now and from September 1982 to June 1983. In a few respects, life is better today for the unemployed than it was then.

Unemployment benefits are more generous, adjusted for inflation, and the Internet allows jobseekers to network, scan for openings and apply without leaving home.

And thanks in part to higher home values, Americans are worth more now. Measured in 2009 dollars, net worth comes to about $173,000 per person, compared with $94,000 in 1982, according to Lynn Reaser, president of the National Association for Business Economics.

Even if the average American has a larger cushion to fall back on, times are tough.

A much larger share of jobs these days—more than four out of five—are in the service sector, such as tax preparers, hair stylists and retail clerks. Those jobs generally pay less and offer fewer benefits than blue-collar manufacturing work.

Manufacturing, which typically offers more generous benefits, accounts for less than 9 percent of payrolls today—down from 19 percent in 1982.

Back then, the United Auto Workers persuaded the Big Three auto companies to pay up to 95 percent of the gap between a laid-off worker's unemployment benefits and what he or she made on the job.

But since the decline of the size and influence of unions, "that would be inconceivable today," says University of Illinois professor Michael LeRoy, who studies unions.

Unemployment also squeezes families tighter these days because they are less conservative about how they spend and save.

People carry an average of about $46,000 in debt—mortgages, credit cards, auto loans and other consumer debt. That's a far bigger load than in 1982, when per capita debt totaled about $14,000 in today's dollars.

And savings, as a percentage of after-tax income, was only 2.7 percent last year, down from 10.9 percent in 1982. Americans stashed an average of just $940 last year, compared with $2,537 in 1982. That helps explain why the foreclosure rate runs about seven times higher today.

AP

In this photo taken Oct. 27, 2009, Joey Blevins, an unemployed iron worker from Sheridan, Ark., center, checks his resume while standing in line at a Little Rock, Ark., job fair.

G-20 finance officials: Too early to end stimulus

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—Finance officials from rich and developing countries have pledged to maintain emergency support for their economies until recovery is assured, but failed to reach a clear agreement to bear the cost of fighting climate change.

There was also a mixed reaction among the Group of 20 leading rich and emerging nations Saturday to a British-led push to consider a fund for bank bailouts, possibly financed by a tax on financial transactions, to ensure that taxpayers don't bear the brunt of any future rescues.

The grouping—representing around 90 percent of the world's wealth, 80 percent of world trade and two-thirds of the world's population—said in a statement after talks in St. Andrews, Scotland, that economic recovery is "uneven and remains dependent on policy support."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said U.S. jobs figures out Friday showing unemployment at a 26-year high of 10.2 percent "reinforced that this is still a very tough economic environment."

While the "process of growth is now beginning," that fledging growth still needs to be reinforced to create jobs and get businesses investing to underpin the recovery in the housing market and elsewhere, Geithner said.

"If we put the brakes on too quickly, we will weaken the economy and the financial system, unemployment will rise, more businesses will fail, budget deficits will rise, and the ultimate cost of the crisis will be greater," he told reporters in Scotland. "It is too early to start to lean against recovery."

The statement smoothed over divisions among G-20 nations about whether it was time to start talking about exit strategies to unwind recent massive stimulus measures. Germany, France and Russia have called for a joint plan on when countries should start repaying debt, and the European Central Bank has indicated it will soon start withdrawing some of its emergency lending to banks.

On climate change, the G-20 officials also said they wanted "an ambitious outcome" at a major UN conference in Copenhagen next month—but did not commit to a funding package to help poorer nations adapt to a warming climate.

Software cos. eye key patent case in Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the technology industry looking on, the Supreme Court on Monday will explore what types of inventions should be eligible for a patent in a pivotal case that could undermine such legal protections for software.

A ruling that sides with the Patent Office could bar patents on processes and methods of doing business, such as online shopping techniques, medical diagnostic tests and procedures for executing trades on Wall Street. And it might even undercut patents on software.

In a worst-case scenario for the high-tech industry, the ruling could invalidate many existing software patents or at least make them more difficult to defend in lawsuits. And it could make such patents harder to obtain in the future because software is generally patented as a process for doing something rather than as a physical invention.

"Technology companies care about this case because it will define what you can and cannot get a patent on," said Emery Simon, counselor to the Business Software Alliance, which represents large technology companies including Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp. "The scope of patentability could have ramifications for the path that technology takes."

It's impossible to know what products might never have come to market without patent protection for software. But tech companies say these patents have played a critical role in keeping the U.S. at the cutting edge by giving people control over their inventions for nearly 20 years.

"The software industry would lose an important incentive to innovate if the government ceased issuing software patents," warned patent attorney James Carmichael, a former judge on the Patent Office board of appeals.

Although technology companies insist they'll keep innovating no matter how the high court rules, an unfavorable outcome might force them to write patent applications in a different way or rely more on copyright and trade secret protections. And it might even draw Congress into the debate.

The facts of the case are not about software.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fry's, Safeway prepping for possible strike

PHOENIX (AP)—In less than a week, unionized workers at two Arizona grocery store chains may be walking a picket line instead of stocking shelves and cutting meat. Fry's Food Stores has begun advertising for thousands of temporary workers in the event its estimated 13,000 hourly workers strike. Fry's recruitment ads began running Saturday and offer a starting wage of $9.50 per hour. Safeway spokeswoman Cathy Kloos said the chain is preparing to do the same.

Chinese premier: Africa trade push is 'selfless'

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP)—China's premier stressed Saturday that his country's push to boost already burgeoning trade ties with Africa was "sincere and selfless," as the Asian powerhouse battled criticism its quest for natural resources was at the expense of the poverty-ravaged continent. In a speech punctuated with terms like "equality" and "mutual benefit," Wen Jiabao appeared to be setting the stage for a China-Africa summit starting Sunday that would allow Beijing to both continue its investment inroads into Africa and mute critics who argue that its need to fuel its growing economy has allowed it to ignore the dismal human rights records of many of the continent's nations.

Engine fire grounds Delta plane in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—A company spokesman says a Delta plane headed to Philadelphia had to return to the gate just before takeoff from Atlanta because of an engine fire. Delta spokesman Carlos Santos said the MD88 was taxiing along the runway shortly after 3 p.m. Saturday when there were reports of "some flames coming out of the engine." He said airport fire trucks responded immediately. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Santos said there wasn't any smoke in the cabin and all 138 passengers were quickly evacuated from the plane. He said all passengers would be put on flights to Philadelphia later Saturday.

Holiday airfares close to last year and climbing

By JOSHUA FREED
AP AIRLINES WRITER

If holiday travelers on the same plane compare what they paid to fly, they're likely to find quite a spread, depending on when they bought their tickets.

Fares for travel around the holidays have been rising since late summer. Christmas fares are now running 4 percent below a year ago, and the gap is likely to disappear soon.

Contrast that with a year ago, when the airlines essentially put the holiday travel season on sale. With the recession in full force, airlines used discounting to fill seats.

People who waited to book holiday fares last year saved money. This year, holding off could cost you.

Most carriers pushed through a $10 fare increase at the end of October. For the holidays, the big airlines added a $20 surcharge each way on popular travel days closest to Christmas and New Year's.

Tom Parsons of BestFares.com compared holiday fares purchased on July 1 with the same itinerary booked on Nov 2. Several had risen 50 percent or more. Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., had more than doubled to $528.

Airlines have been shrinking to match a decrease in travel. With the supply of seats more in line with demand, carriers have been able to raise fares close to where they were last holiday season.

Average Thanksgiving fares are up 2 percent to $351, according to Bing Travel, the fare-watching Web site owned by Microsoft. The average Christmas fare is around $370 round-trip, slightly below a year ago.

Thanksgiving fares "are up quite a bit even from where they were at the beginning of October," said Joel Grus, who tracks fares for Bing Travel. He also thinks Christmas fares will soon be at last year's levels.

Nation

House narrowly passes landmark health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed landmark health care legislation Saturday night to expand coverage to tens of millions who lack it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry. Republican opposition was nearly unanimous.

The 220-215 vote cleared the way for the Senate to begin debate on the issue that has come to overshadow all others in Congress.

A triumphant Speaker Nancy Pelosi likened the legislation to the passage of Social Security in 1935 and Medicare 30 years later.

"It provides coverage for 96 percent of Americans. It offers everyone, regardless of health or income, the peace of mind that comes from knowing they will have access to affordable health care when they need it," said Rep. John Dingell, the 83-year-old Michigan lawmaker who has introduced national health insurance in every Congress since succeeding his father in 1955.

In the run-up to a final vote, conservatives from the two political parties joined forces to impose tough new restrictions on abortion coverage in insurance policies to be sold to many individuals and small groups. They prevailed on a roll call of 240-194.

AP

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., walks to the House of Representatives floor with Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the health care bill continues to be debated at the U.S. Capitol late Saturday evening, Nov. 7, 2009 in Washington.

Ironically, that only solidified support for the legislation, clearing the way for conservative Democrats to vote for it.

The legislation would require most Americans to carry insurance and provide federal subsidies to those who otherwise could not afford it. Large companies would have to offer coverage to their employees. Both consumers and companies would be slapped with penalties if they defied the government's mandates.

Insurance industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of preexisting medical conditions would be banned, and insurers would no longer be able to charge higher premiums on the basis of gender or medical history. In a further slap, the industry would lose its exemption from federal antitrust restrictions on price gouging, bid rigging and market allocation.

Suspect told 'There's something wrong with you'

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—There was the classroom presentation that justified suicide bombings. Comments to colleagues about a climate of persecution faced by Muslims in the military. Conversations with a mosque leader that became incoherent.

As a student, some who knew Nidal Malik Hasan said they saw clear signs the young Army psychiatrist—who authorities say went on a shooting spree at Fort Hood that left 13 dead and 29 others wounded—had no place in the military. After arriving at Fort Hood, he was conflicted about what to tell fellow Muslim soldiers about the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, alarming an Islamic community leader from whom he sought counsel.

"I told him, `There's something wrong with you,'" Osman Danquah, co-founder of the Islamic Community of Greater Killeen, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "I didn't get the feeling he was talking for himself, but something just didn't seem right."

Danquah assumed the military's chain of command knew about Hasan's doubts, which had been known for more than a year to classmates in a graduate military medical program.

Hasan

His fellow students complained to the faculty about Hasan's "anti-American propaganda," but said a fear of appearing discriminatory against a Muslim student kept officers from filing a formal written complaint.

"The system is not doing what it's supposed to do," said Dr. Val Finnell, who studied with Hasan from 2007-2008 in the master's program in public health at the military's Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. "He at least should have been confronted about these beliefs, told to cease and desist, and to shape up or ship out."

2010 elections: Democratic fears, Republican hopes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Oh, how the tables have turned.

Nervous Democrats are on defense and emboldened Republicans sense opportunity heading into 2010 and the midterm elections. It was just three years ago that the GOP lost the House and Senate as well as governors' races in a cross-country Democratic wave.

Now, with most states under their control and comfortable majorities in Congress, Democrats must protect far more seats than Republicans: 19 governors' mansions, 17 Senate seats and as many as 60 House districts in moderate-to-conservative regions and swing-voting areas.

At this point, Democrats must do it in a more difficult political environment than in 2006 and 2008.

President Barack Obama clearly recognizes as much. One year after his historic victory, he pleaded for his backers to be patient and asked them to stick with him.

"The challenges might not be met in one year or one term," he said in a video message last week. "We're making progress."

Fear about the economy and anger at incumbents are coursing through the country, while independents wary of government expansion and federal spending under the president they helped elect are shifting toward Republicans.

Democrats will be forced to explain votes and positions on the expensive economic stimulus plan, climate change legislation and, probably, the health care overhaul. Although Democrats have a popular president on their side, there are limits to Obama's clout; Democratic gubernatorial candidates in New Jersey and Virginia lost last week even though he campaigned for them.

High court to look at life in prison for juveniles

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Sullivan was sent away for life for raping an elderly woman and judged incorrigible though he was only 13 at the time of the attack.

Terrance Graham, implicated in armed robberies when he was 16 and 17, was given a life sentence by a judge who told the teenager he threw his life away.

They didn't kill anyone, but they effectively were sentenced to die in prison.

Life sentences with no chance of parole are rare and harsh for juveniles tried as adults and convicted of crimes less serious than killing. Just over 100 prison inmates in the United States are serving those terms, according to data compiled by opponents of the sentences.

Now the Supreme Court is being asked to say that locking up juveniles and throwing away the key is cruel and unusual—and thus, unconstitutional. Other than in death penalty cases, the justices never before have found that a penalty crossed the cruel-and-unusual line. They will hear arguments Monday.

Graham, now 22, and Sullivan, now 33, are in Florida prisons, which hold more than 70 percent of juvenile defendants locked up for life for nonhomicide crimes. Although their lawyers deny their clients are guilty, the court will consider only whether the sentences are permitted by the Constitution.

The Supreme Court's latest look at how to punish young criminals flows directly from its 4-year-old decision to rule out the death penalty for anyone younger than 18.

In that 2005 case decided by a 5-4 vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion talked about "the lesser culpability of the juvenile offender."

"From a moral standpoint it would be misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor's character deficiencies will be reformed," Kennedy said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Funeral services held for slain New Mexico nun

GALLUP, N.M. (AP)—A slain Catholic nun who lived and worked on the Navajo Indian reservation was remembered Saturday for her passion for the poor at funeral services. A tearful, standing-room only crowd attended a funeral Mass for 64-year-old Sister Marguerite Bartz at Gallup's Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bartz was laid to rest later Saturday just across the stateline in St. Michaels, Ariz., on a rocky hillside overlooking the reservation where she lived for the last decade. Bartz was dedicated to working with the poor, and her duties included giving advice on raising children, running religious education classes and traveling to the homes of Navajo elders on remote parts of the reservation.

Ground broken for Flight 93 memorial in Pa.

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—With the words "Let's roll"—the command issued by United Flight 93 passenger Todd Beamer to lead the passenger revolt—U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and 39 victims' relatives and dignitaries turned shovels of dirt at a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday for a permanent national memorial. "We made it. Not to our goal, not to the finish line. Certainly not any semblance of closure, but nevertheless, we made it to the next milestone of our journey," said Gordon Felt, whose brother, Edward Felt, was one of the 40 passengers and crew who died when the plane crashed into a field near rural Shanksville, about 65 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. The government intends to have the first phase completed by Sept. 11, 2011—the terrorist attacks' 10th anniversary.

Alleged Ohio serial killer rare among mass killers

CLEVELAND (AP)—Authorities say Anthony Sowell lured women into his home in a busy neighborhood, killed them—most by strangulation—and scattered their remains throughout the inside and buried some in the backyard. Such brazenness defies logic, but experts identify a narrow subcategory of serial killers, including the 1893 Chicago Fair killer, Dr. H.H. Holmes, and Milwaukee cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer, who hunt from home. "These types are so rare that you can't make a summary estimation as to why or what went wrong or anything," said Robert Keppel, a national serial-killer expert who investigated serial killer Ted Bundy in Washington state in the 1970s.

Asia

Unique homecoming to Vietnam for US commander

DANANG, Vietnam (AP)—On the day his side lost the Vietnam War, Hung Ba Le fled his homeland at the age of 5 in a fishing trawler crammed with 400 refugees. Thirty-four years later, he made an unlikely homecoming—as the commander of a U.S. Navy destroyer.

Le piloted the USS *Lassen* on Saturday into Danang, home of China Beach, where U.S. troops frequently headed for R&R during the war, which ended on April 30, 1975, when the southern city of Saigon was taken by communist troops from North Vietnam.

That was the day Le and his family embarked on an uncertain journey in a fishing boat piloted by Le's father, who was a commander in the South Vietnamese navy. They were rescued at sea by the USS *Barbour County*, taken to a U.S. base in the Philippines, a refugee camp in California and finally to northern Virginia, where they rebuilt their lives.

Le returned on the *Lassen*, an $800 million, 509-foot destroyer equipped with Tomahawk missiles and a crew of 300. The ship and the USS *Blue Ridge*, the command vessel for the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, are making the latest in a series of goodwill visits to Vietnam, which began in 2003 when the USS Vandergriff paid a port call to Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon.

"I thought that one day I would return but I really didn't expect to be returning as the commander of a Navy warship," Le said after stepping ashore Saturday. "It's an incredible personal honor."

"I'm proud to be an American, but I'm also very proud of my Vietnamese heritage," said Le, who spoke a few halting words in Vietnamese.

The ship visits represent the efforts of both the United States and Vietnam to develop their relationship as a balance to Chinese power in the region, without antagonizing Vietnam's massive northern neighbor.

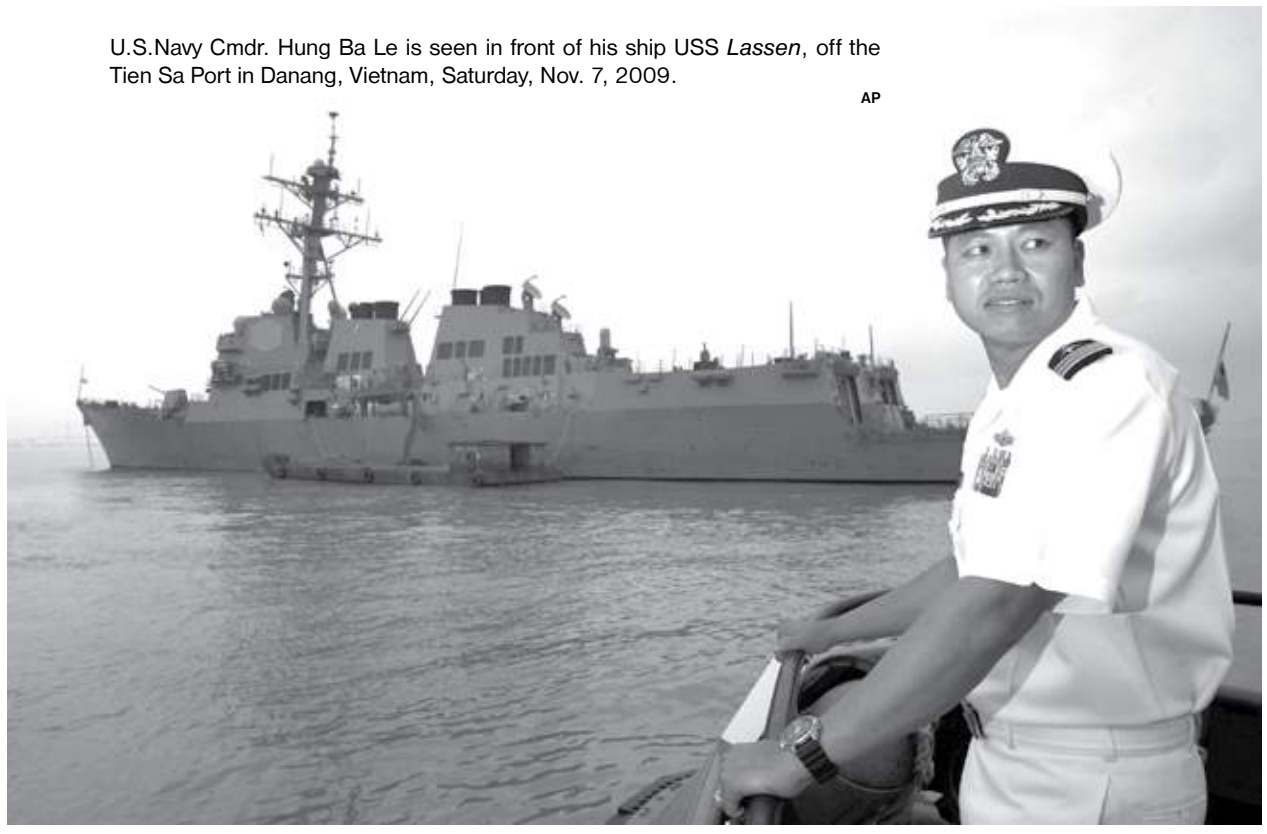
Directly east of Danang are the Paracel Islands, where China and Vietnam are engaged in a sensitive territorial dispute over the archipelago, from which the Chinese drove out South Vietnamese troops in 1974. They are also wrangling over the Spratlys, another island chain believed to contain valuable oil and gas reserves.

Le grew up in Hue, a city on the central coast about 65 miles (105 kilometers) north of Danang where he still has relatives. He returned to a country that is vastly changed from the days of the Vietnam War.

Along the Danang coastline where U.S. troops used to swim and surf, luxury hotels such as Hyatt and Marriott are springing up. Tourists are flocking to the region, where they can shoot a few rounds at a course designed by professional golf star Colin Montgomerie.

The relationship between the United States and communist Vietnam has also changed dramatically since the former foes normalized relations in 1995. Trade has boomed, and diplomatic and military ties have grown closer.

U.S.Navy Cmdr. Hung Ba Le is seen in front of his ship USS *Lassen*, off the Tien Sa Port in Danang, Vietnam, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009. AP



Japan says no base deal during Obama visit

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's foreign minister said Sunday that no deal on relocating U.S. troops on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa can be expected during President Barack Obama's visit this week, saying the issue needs more time to resolve.

Obama is scheduled to arrive Friday, and a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama is on the agenda. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said Sunday on TV Asahi that "an agreement between the heads of state holds heavy meaning," but cannot be expected to be finalized during Obama's visit.

Washington and Tokyo agreed in 2006 that the Marine airfield in Futenma, a crowded city on Okinawa, would be relocated to another part of the island. But Japan's government changed in August elections, and Okinawans have pushed to move the base off the island entirely.

The new administration is pushing for a slightly more assertive Japan, and Hatoyama has said he wants to resolve the base issue more democratically than previous governments and that he wants to win the support of Okinawa.

Okinawa residents have long been concerned about base-related crime, noise and environmental damage.

The United States has about 47,000 troops in Japan under a half-century-old security pact, more than half on Okinawa.

Okada said the government was looking at other options for Futenma base, including expanding Kadena Air Base on another part of Okinawa, or moving the base to the island of Iwo Jima.

"Options are being studied," he said, while refusing to comment on what the government might do if they don't pan out. "If we rush to a conclusion, and that can't be realized, that would be an even bigger problem."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Suicide attack in Pakistan kills 8

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Police say a suicide bomber has attacked a goat market in northwest Pakistan, killing eight people. The Sunday morning attack appeared to be aimed at a local mayor. It occurred in the Adazi area, 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of the main northwest city of Peshawar. Police official Naseem Khan says the mayor, Abdul Malik, was wounded. Militants have struck numerous times in Pakistan in recent weeks, killing more than 300 civilians and security forces in attacks apparently aimed at weakening the government's resolve to continue a military operation against Taliban and al-Qaida militants in South Waziristan.

Afghan gov't says UN representative out of line

KABUL (AP)—Pushing back against international criticism, Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry said Saturday that the top U.N. official in the country overstepped his authority by giving instructions on how to rid the government of corruption and warlords.

Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide joined a host of international figures, including President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who have called on the Afghan government to take concrete steps to clean up the government following a presidential election that was marred by fraud. But the comments of Eide, head of the U.N. mission in Afghanistan, prompted the foreign minister to issue a weekend statement saying the U.N. official "exceeded international norms and his authority as a representative of an impartial organization."

RP to buy rice from Vietnam, SKorea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has decided to buy rice from Vietnamese and South Korean companies to cover a shortage caused by recent back-to-back typhoons, a spokesman said Friday. The decision came two days after the two companies—Daewoo International Corp. and Vietnam Southern Food Corp., or Vinafood—offered the lowest bids for 275,500 tons (250,000 metric tons) to the National Food Authority, agency spokesman Rex Estoperes said. The Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, lost at least 1.3 million tons of rice after being pummeled over the last two months by typhoons that left more than 900 dead and rice paddies submerged.

Afghan ministry: NATO strike kills Afghan forces

KABUL (AP)—U.S. and Afghan authorities investigated Saturday whether a botched NATO airstrike was to blame for the death of Afghan soldiers and police during a search for two American paratroopers missing in a Taliban-infested area of the country's west.

The probe into a possible friendly fire incident further aggravates already strained relations between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the international community, which holds his enfeebled government partly responsible for rising instability.

After enduring a drumbeat of criticism from world leaders in recent days, the Afghan government struck back on Saturday, saying it viewed a U.N. official's prescription for ridding the country of corruption and warlords as an infringement on its national sovereignty.

The airstrike occurred Friday during heavy fighting in Badghis province, a remote area that borders Turkmenistan. Two days earlier, two American paratroopers disappeared there while trying to recover airdropped supplies that had fallen into a river. Fighting broke out between members of a search team and Taliban insurgents, the U.S. military said.

Eight Afghans—four soldiers, three policemen and an interpreter—were killed. Seventeen Afghan troops, including soldiers and police, five American soldiers and another Afghan interpreter were wounded, the U.S. said.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry said the deaths and injuries likely happened "during an air attack by NATO forces" on a joint U.S.-Afghan base.

U.S. officials would not confirm the account, but said in a statement that a joint investigation was under way to determine whether any of the casualties were caused by NATO "close air support."

The top U.S. and NATO commander, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, has ordered commanders to use airpower sparingly to minimize civilian casualties, which threaten to undermine Afghan support for the war against the Taliban. However, commanders are free to call in airpower to defend themselves against Taliban attack.

To defang Taliban, some look to private schools

QUTBAL, Pakistan (AP)—The schoolhouse is so tiny that dozens of pupils have to sit outdoors. They're lucky if their teachers have more than a basic education. And the chanting of math equations and Quranic verses gets so loud that the children have a hard time hearing themselves.

Yet the pupils love the Islamia Model School, one of thousands of private schools popping up in Pakistan. Unlike at area public schools, Islamia's seven teachers show up regularly to work. Unlike at religious schools, its curriculum extends well beyond Islam.

Plus, it has desks and chairs—no small thing to the many poor families who enroll their children here.

Pakistan is seeing a surge in private schools, a trend some find hopeful in a country where the government education system is decrepit and the other alternative is religious schools, known here as madrasas, which offer little education beyond memorizing the Quran and are seen as one source of Islamic militancy.

The U.S., for one, says it plans to invest in private schools as part of a multibillion-dollar aid package designed to erode extremism in the nuclear-armed country battered by Taliban attacks.

"The quality of education in the public sector is deteriorating day by day," said T.M. Qureshi, a Ministry of Education official. "When there's a vacuum of quality, someone will fill it."

According to UNESCO figures, Pakistan spends 2.9 percent of its gross domestic product on education, slightly less than India's 3.2 percent and well below the U.S.'s 5.2 percent.

One reason education has historically been a low priority for Pakistani governments, experts say, is that the governing elite can afford to send their children to the best private schools or to academies abroad. Another, the experts say, is the feudal structures in the rural areas that give landowners an incentive to keep farm workers uneducated and submissive.

World

Giant dominoes form tribute to Berlin Wall's fall

BERLIN (AP)—Massive colorful dominoes painted by German students were placed Saturday along the former path of the Berlin Wall to mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the barrier that divided the city for nearly three decades.

Many of the upright 7.5-foot-high (2.3-meter-high) plastic foam dominoes carried messages, including "We are one people." The approximately 1,000 dominoes stretching for 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) will be toppled Monday as part of wider celebrations of the wall's fall.

One labeled "bleeding heart" showed a sword cutting through the city of Berlin, starting a crimson flow of blood speckled with crosses.

"Everyone has walls in their heads to a certain extent," said Berlin resident Stefan Schueler as he perused the domino display. "It's always a good thing if one can break them down, and I think this is a good symbol."

Former Polish leader Lech Walesa, whose pro-democracy movement Solidarity played a key role in ending communism in Eastern Europe, is to tip the first domino Monday as the artistic display comes toppling down.

AP

Dominoes stand in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dimitry Medvedev also are expected to be on hand Monday for the formal commemorations of the wall's opening on Nov. 9, 1989.

"The fall of the wall was a very big event, and I think most Berlin residents are thankful to those who made it happen," said Berlin resident Guenter Nowak standing beside one stretch of dominoes.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, herself a resident of East Germany when the wall fell, said in her weekly podcast Saturday that it was a day that "changed the lives of many people including me."

"It is particularly nice for us to be able to celebrate this day with our European neighbors," Merkel said. "We Germans will not forget our neighbors and allies who made the path to German reunification possible."

Researchers estimate that 136 people were killed while trying to cross the barrier during its 28-year existence.

On Saturday in a village outside Berlin, three new memorial stones were dedicated to victims of the wall.

One honored Horst Kullack, a 23-year-old who was shot by border guards on Dec. 31, 1971.

For his family, the memory is still fresh in their minds.

"He was gone, disappeared," said his father, Willi Kullack. "He did not come home. It was New Year's Eve."

He said the East German secret police came to his home the following day. He asked them where his son was.

"They said: He's not going to come anymore," Kullack recalled.

Medvedev: Arms control deal with US can be reached

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia and the United States have a good chance of reaching a new nuclear arms reduction deal before year's end, but other nuclear powers must join disarmament efforts, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in remarks released Saturday.

Medvedev also told Germany's Der Spiegel magazine he has been working well with his predecessor Vladimir Putin, and predictions of a rift between him and Putin—widely seen as pulling the strings in Russia—are overblown. The Kremlin released a transcript of the comments.

"No one must have any doubts that our 'tandem' has been working quite harmoniously," Medvedev said. "As you can see, predictions that we will have a falling out so far have failed to materialize."

The U.S.-Russian arms control talks are moving at a good pace, Medvedev said.

"We have every chance to agree on a new treaty, determine new (weapons) levels and control measures and sign a legally binding document in the end of the year," he said in remarks released by the Kremlin.

He sounded less upbeat about the prospect of the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

Russia and the United States both say they are committed to negotiating a successor deal to their 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. That arms reduction treaty has gradually slashed both sides' arsenals but is set to expire Dec. 5.

In July, U.S. President Barack Obama and Medvedev agreed that the current talks should reach an accord to reduce both countries' arsenals to between 1,500 and 1,675 nuclear weapons within seven years.

Medvedev told Der Spiegel that other nuclear powers have been reluctant to join in disarmament efforts.

"A nuclear-free world is our shared ideal for which we must aspire, but a road to that is difficult," he said. "It takes not just the United States and Russia renouncing nuclear weapons, but other countries as well."

Putin anointed Medvedev as his preferred successor and moved into the prime minister's job after the 2008 presidential election. Putin said in September that he and Medvedev would "come to an agreement" on who would run for president in the 2012 election, leading to speculation that the two would decide on a predetermined winner.

Peres calls on Palestinian leader not to quit

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israel's president on Saturday called on Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to rescind his decision to stand down, invoking the memory of Yitzhak Rabin at a public commemoration for the assassinated Israeli premier.

Shimon Peres spoke to a crowd of thousands at the square where Rabin was gunned down by a Jewish extremist who opposed his peace policies on Nov. 4, 1995.

Peres recalled that along with Rabin, he and Abbas were among signatories to the 1993 Oslo peace accord and he appealed to Abbas by name not to quit.

"We both signed the Oslo agreement," Peres said. "I turn to you as a colleague, don't let go."

Abbas announced Thursday that he would not run for another term in an election scheduled for January, citing deadlocked efforts to revive peace talks.

In a video message screened at Saturday's rally, President Barack Obama paid tribute to Rabin and pledged to keep trying to get the Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

"To all who seek peace I say tonight, you will always have a partner in the United States of America and in my administration," Obama said. "That's why we've been working aggressively for our clear goal, two states living side by side in peace and security."

Saudi won't bar hajj pilgrims over swine flu fears

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—The Saudi health minister said Saturday that the kingdom will not bar anyone considered high-risk for swine flu from performing the hajj pilgrimage this year, though he urged countries where pilgrims set out from to take precautions.

The hajj, required of all able-bodied Muslims at least once in their lifetime, has become a concern for world health officials because the density of pilgrims—with shoulder-to-shoulder contact as they pray—has raised fears of a massive spread of swine flu.

The pilgrimage attracts about 3 million people from 160 countries annually and begins this year on Nov. 25, as the winter flu season approaches in the Northern Hemisphere.

The H1N1 flu has killed 66 people in Saudi Arabia, and the government invited international experts, including from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, in June to a conference to examine Saudi measures to prevent the spread of the disease during the Muslim pilgrimage.

The conference recommended that the elderly, pregnant women, people with chronic diseases and children skip hajj this year.

Health Minister Abdullah al-Rabeeah said it is the responsibility of individual countries to enforce those recommendations.

"Saudi Arabia does not ban anyone because hajj is a religious event," al-Rabeeah told reporters. "Saudi Arabia has put in place strong recommendations that we hope individual countries will abide by."

WORLD BRIEFS

Rival Lebanon factions agree on unity government

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's Syrian-backed factions finally agreed on a unity government proposed by their pro-Western rivals on Saturday, ending a four-month deadlock in the deeply divided country. The announcement by the opposition coalition dominated by the militant Hezbollah group came after a meeting late Friday night between the groups' leaders including Hassan Nasrallah. Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri was informed the next day. The agreement would end a political deadlock that has threatened to send the fragile nation spiraling back into violence. Hariri has been trying to form a Cabinet since June, when his western-backed coalition narrowly defeated Hezbollah and their allies and retained a slim majority in the 128-member legislature.

Saudi won't bar hajj pilgrims over swine flu fears

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Mexican army makes large opium seizure

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—The Mexican army said Saturday it has seized a shipment of almost a quarter-ton of opium in the country's northern mountains, one of the largest such seizures made in Mexico. The 448 pounds (203 kilograms) of opium paste was found Thursday hidden in nine plastic containers in the township of Guadalupe y Calvo, in the border state of Chihuahua, the Defense Department said in a statement. Seven rifles, three pistols and nearly 10,000 rounds of ammunition were found along with the opium, which can be refined to make heroin. The army said it could have yielded 200,000 doses of heroin or similar drugs.

Health & Fitness

No joke: Laughter as stress-fighting therapy

By JANICE PODSADA
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Can pretending to ride the subway, leaning into the turns and toppling fellow passengers, relieve stress?

Apparently, if the conductor is a certified laughter leader and the strap-hangers are willing to force a few laughs.

"Let's do subway! Lean to the right, to the left!" barked Jolene Nevers, above a chorus of loud but faked ha-has that morphed into a real giggle here, a bona fide titter there.

"You end up actually laughing," said Karissa Covelli, 19, who said the 20-minute laughtherapy session at the University of Connecticut's Health Education Center recently dissolved the day's frustrations and a crabby mood. "I feel a lot better now."

Nevers, a university health-education coordinator and a laughter leader certified by World Laughter Tour Inc., learned about the laughter-therapy movement at an American College Health Association conference two years ago.

"Laughter clubs are a form of structured play," she said. "As adults, we have to work fun and play into our lives."

Amid a merciless economy that has stripped millions of Americans of their jobs or homes or trapped them in the quicksand of debt, fitting fun into their lives is serious stuff. Laughter, researchers conclude, is nothing to joke about.

Laughter therapy reduced cholesterol and lowered inflammation in a group of diabetics with high blood pressure, according to a study this spring by doctors at Loma Linda University. Their findings jibe with a 2005 study by the University of Maryland's Center for Preventive Cardiology, which found that laughing relieves stress. Stress can damage the endothelium, the protective barrier that lines the blood vessels and lead to the build up of fat and cholesterol, factors in heart attack, said Dr. Michael Miller, the center's director.

"We know that exercising, not smoking and eating foods low in saturated fat will reduce the risk of heart disease," Miller said. "Perhaps regular, hearty laughter should be added to the list."

But does forced laughter, as practiced by laughter-therapy enthusiasts, provide the same benefits as real laughter? According to some studies, the brain doesn't know the difference between the two. Endorphins, the body's happy hormones, are released when we laugh or simulate laughter, according to Charles Schaefer, a psychology professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J.

In 1995, Dr. Madan Kataria started a laughter club in Mumbai, India, that was loosely based on yoga, laughter and role-playing. Today, there are more than 6,000 clubs in India, many of which meet daily before the work day begins.

THE HARTFORD COURANT

Joleen Nevers, right, leads a Laughter Club exercise as, from left, Ellie Jisler, Marc Magnotta, Pierre Khawaja, Liberty Pandey and Anna DeVeau-Jalbert, make believe they are riding a subway car getting tossed and turned. Nevers, a certified laughter leader, offers laughter therapy to students, faculty and staff at the University of Connecticut.

Mark Sherry, a Connecticut business owner with a master's degree in psychology, is a certified laughter yoga leader. Sherry, who received his credentials from Laughter Yoga International, which was founded by Kataria, began leading laughter groups in mid-2008.

Sherry, 59, typically asks for a donation of $3 to $6 for a 45-minute group session. In recent months, many unemployed workers have bolstered their spirits by bearing their teeth, spreading their claws and acting like lions or penguins or pretending to be lottery winners, Sherry said.

"I've had a number of people who've shared that they're out of work and need to laugh," said Sherry, whose background includes working with special-education students and stand-up comedy.

At another session, Sherry said, "I had a woman come up to me whose husband had died just two months before. She had not laughed since then. She thanked me for getting her out of her shell. Another woman who was in her 80s said her boyfriend had just died the day before. She said it was wonderful, incredible therapy for her."

Kerry Truchan, 36, found one of his groups this summer on www.meetup.com, a site that helps users find, or organize, local groups.

"I thought it was kind of silly, but some of the exercises were really fun," Truchan said. "We had to pretend we won bags of money and carry them around. I kind of wished it was real!"

Sherry said laughter therapy "is the kind of therapy that therapists also benefit from."

Sherry added that it isn't a substitute for people requiring the care of a psychologist or psychiatrist. But laughter provides an emotional release and has physical effects. It can break down cortisol, the hormone released when the body is under stress, and increase production of endorphins, Sherry said.

At the group level, "It helps people bond. All the pretense is just dropped," Sherry said.

Laughter therapy's faked howls and phony guffaws is not for everyone.

"It's not my favorite thing to do," said Julianne Ceruti, who participated in a recent session. "I attended to show support for my fellow students."

Ceruti, 20, works in the Health Education office at the University of Connecticut and is majoring in audiology.

"I feel like I laugh a lot in my day-to-day life," Ceruti said. "I'm a happy person. Forced laughter is awkward." But, she added, "I think it's something that people should at least try."

Now's the time to fall into outdoor activities

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

With vivid colors on the trees and cooling temperatures, fall is a spectacular season for being active outdoors. "No one should feel intimidated by the changing weather," says Barbara Klieforth, president of the board of directors of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (www.waba.org). In fact, exercising without the threat of overheating should be motivation enough. Here are four ways to get your heart rate up outside, with advice on how to stay warm and safe.

SURF

After Labor Day, surfers usually don't have to deal with the heavy summer crowds that plague beaches. Plus, waves are more regular and the water is still somewhat warm along the mid-Atlantic.

There are often four- to six-foot swells "every few days or so versus every week or two, so the waves are more consistent," says Adam Mendizabal, a member of DC Surfrider (www.surfrider.org/capitol), a grassroots environmental organization that includes surfers. That's because of hurricane season and nor'easters from Canada, says Ryan Van Fleet, another member of the group.

Because surf conditions vary with the changing weather and the topography of the ocean floor, it's difficult to pick one spot that's guaranteed to have worthwhile waves. Van Fleet likes Ocean City and Maryland's Assateague Island.

The water temperature isn't too bad, but the wind can make it much cooler, Van Fleet says. So he's usually in a wet suit and brings booties, gloves and a hood to wear in case it gets colder.

It takes upper body strength to paddle and catch those waves. Toning the shoulders and back are crucial, so Mendizabal often goes paddling in the Potomac on his surfboard. "You definitely get a lot of looks when you're walking up the bank to jump in" to the river, Mendizabal says, but it's worth it to get outdoors and in shape for surfing.

ROCK CLIMB

This is a vigorous activity that anyone who's reasonably fit can do with the proper training, says Robert Graver, chairman of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's Mountaineering section (www.potomacappalachian.org): "It's more of a creative expression than a purely physical act."

Fall is when the season winds down for rock climbers, Graver say. It's also when you don't have to worry as much about the heat. "The load gets lighter" in the fall, Graver says, meaning you don't have to carry extra water as climbers do during the summer, though you do need a sweater or shell in case it rains. His favorite sites include outcrops in Shenandoah National Park, such as Old Rag Mountain and Stony Man cliffs. "These offer a little more seclusion," Graver says.

BIKE

Cyclists should take precautions in the fall, Klieforth says: "The weather varies not only day by day, hour by hour here, but also from neighborhood to neighborhood." So dress in layers and make sure to attach reflectors or reflecting tape to bikes. If you want to keep clean, use fenders to repel dirt, suggests Greg Drury, chairman-elect of the Potomac Pedalers Touring Club (www.bikepptc.org).

HIKE

One benefit to hiking this time of year: "The fall seems to be a little bit drier" than spring, says David Saah, trail director of Wanderbirds Hiking Club (www.wanderbirds.org), and "many people say they aren't bothered as much by the bugs."

Hikers should "switch from cotton to synthetic layers for clothing because cotton gets wet and robs your body of heat," says Marian Marbury, who handles public relations for Washington Women Outdoors (www.washingtonwomenoutdoors.org).

It's often true that the higher you go, the better the view, so Saah is partial to such advanced trails as Robertson Mountain and Corbin Hollow in Shenandoah National Park.

To gear up for such treks, Saah recommends walking up hills and steps around your neighborhood and gradually adding weight to a backpack to build leg strength and stamina. Be aware of muscle strength around your knees, Marbury advises. "Knees are most vulnerable, so do lunges and squats," she suggests. "Then you'll have an easier time with stability and balance."

Life & Style

Augusten Burroughs shares his holiday stories

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not uncommon for people to say that their holidays don't live up to a Norman Rockwell painting, but Augusten Burroughs says his holidays have been "hideous."

The best-selling author of books like "Running with Scissors" and "Dry" has compiled a book of essays about those dreadful experiences called "You Better Not Cry" (St. Martin's Press, 206 pages).

Burroughs tells The Associated Press about some of his more memorable holidays, how he saves stories for the page and his future writing plans.

■ ■ ■

AP: A lot of people feel let down during the holidays.

Burroughs: Yes, I don't seek perfection in the holidays anymore so I'm less disappointed. Lower your standards a little bit. It took me many years to get that.

AP: What was your worst holiday?

Burroughs: The last chapter of the book is also the most recent. The house flooded. We almost lost the house it was so bad.

AP: Not all of your stories are gloom and doom. There's a hysterical story about waking up one morning when you were still drinking (Burroughs is a recovering alcoholic) next to a man with a Santa suit.

Burroughs: If you're me, you can wake up one morning on a beautiful bright winter day and see the sun streaming through those drapes and think, "What a gorgeous day. Look at that sunlight. I don't have drapes though do I? No, I don't. And what's that red over there? Oh, that's a Santa suit. Where might Santa be?" And, you know, there are bad holidays and then there's waking up at the Waldorf Astoria in New York next to Santa. And not knowing how you got there and kind of wishing that you saw handcuffs when you looked down because at least that would imply you had been forced.

AP

This undated file photo released by St. Martins Press shows Augusten Burroughs.

AP: You've had a very unique life. Why reveal such personal stories that people might want to keep quiet?

Burroughs: I've had a lot of very odd or unusual experiences but I'm not odd and I never wanted them, so I react the way I do, which is not unlike how you might. You just might be a little smarter and not get yourself in the situation in the first place.

AP: You write these revealing books but are you the guy in your group of friends who always has a story to share?

Burroughs: No. I'm more reserved. I spend a lot of time alone... The people close to me don't even think about the books. Some of them have never read them.

AP: Do they worry they'll end up in your books?

Burroughs: People end up in my books because it's a story about me. It's my story and they were in it. But I've been in many situations where people around me are involved with something that I'd desperately like to write about but I can't because technically it would be like shoplifting. It would feel like wearing someone else's clothes.

AP: Do you know what your next book will be?

Burroughs: I do. It's something that will be very useful and is something I was born to write. I know what the next few will be but they could be a decade away. I don't know that I'll keep writing books. I'll always write, but I don't know that I'll do it always. That's not to say I won't or I'm thinking about it. I just don't know for how long I will.

Pakistan's fashionistas defy Taliban

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Some women strode the catwalk in vicious spiked bracelets and body armor. Others had their heads covered, burqa-style, but with shoulders—and tattoos—exposed. Male models wore long, Islamic robes as well as shorts and sequined T-shirts.

As surging militant violence grabs headlines around the world, Pakistan's top designers and models are taking part in the country's first-ever fashion week. While the mix of couture and high-street fashions would not have been out of place in Milan or New York, many designers reflected the turmoil, contradictions and tensions coursing through the society.

The four-day event, which was postponed twice due to security fears and amid unease at hosting such a gathering amid an army offensive in the northwest, is aimed at showing the world there is more to Pakistan than violence and helping boost an industry that employs hundreds of thousands of people, organizers said.

Many of the models, designers and well-heeled fashionistas packing out each night said the gathering was a symbolic blow to the Taliban and their vision of society, where women are largely confined to the house and must wear a sack-like covering known as a burqa.

"This is our gesture of defiance to the Taliban," said Ayesha Tammy Haq, the CEO of Fashion Pakistan Week. "There is a terrible problem of militancy and political upheaval ... but that doesn't mean that the country shuts down. That doesn't mean that business comes to a halt."

AP

A model returns from the runway after displaying a creation by Pakistani designer Arshad Tareen, during the Pakistan Fashion Week in Karachi, Pakistan, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009.

The shows are taking place in Karachi, the country's largest and most cosmopolitan city, in a five-star hotel just next door to the American consulate, which was bombed by Islamist militants in 2002. It lies two hours flight from the northwest, the heartland of al-Qaida and the Taliban, and has largely been spared the violence sweeping the country over the last month.

"Unfortunately, it is the bad side of Pakistan that gets everybody's attention," said top Pakistani model Nadia Hussain as hairdressers and makeup artists fussed over her backstage. "It has never been this bad, I don't know what will happen," as fellow models chain-smoked cigarettes.

While many of the city's 12 million people live in slums, hip cafes and restaurants in wealthy neighborhoods draw sophisticated crowds of young men and women into the early hours, more often than not speaking English with each other and wearing Western dress.

While the shows in Karachi resembled other fashion weeks in other parts of the world, there were no foreign designers or buyers. The organizers decided not to invite them given the precarious security situation.

"Who is going to come here with such negative stuff going on?" said Tabassum Mughal, a young designer who employs about 30 people. "Those who are here already are leaving."

Textiles make up some 60 percent of Pakistan exports and are worth around US$12 billion dollars a year. The country's cotton and silks are among the finest in the world. But the industry has failed to grew in recent years amid political unrest, violence and chronic power shortages.

As if on cue, a power cut during the fashion week's opening evening left the hall in darkness for several minutes.

The fashion industry represents a tiny fraction of the country's textile exports.

"We are still doing the 30 dollar a dozen T-shirt business. There is no value added," said Haq. "We should be employing millions of people, not hundreds of thousands of them."

Designers presented a mix of clothes, some drawing on traditional Pakistani outfits and tribal motifs; others that had little or no sign of traditional aesthetics. In a culture where most all women dress modestly, many outfits were too racy for local tastes.

"This does not represent what we are as a people," designer Ayesha Tahir Masood said. "Only 0.001 percent of Pakistani women would wear these clothes, and then only in a controlled environment when drunk out of their minds."

Broadway finds its 'Spider-Man' in Reeve Carney

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway has found its Spider-Man—rock singer Reeve Carney.

Carney will portray celebrated web-slinger Peter Parker in "Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark," producer Michael Cohl announced Friday.

The lavish musical is still scheduled to open sometime in 2010 at the Hilton Theatre. Dates will be announced. The show has had a troubled history, with work on the musical stopped last summer because of financial difficulties. New financing is expected to be in place shortly, according to its producers, and then full production on the musical, which reportedly has a budget of upward of $40 million, will begin.

Said Cohl: "Knowing the details and intricacies of this wildly ambitious project, I want to 'turn off the dark' on all the wild speculation about the show—it's moving forward!"

The Hilton, one of Broadway's largest theaters, has undergone extensive renovation to accommodate "Spider-Man," which will be directed by Julie Taymor and features a score by Bono and The Edge of U2.

"With a team that includes Bono, Edge and Glen Berger (who cowrote the book with Taymor), there was never a question in my mind that 'Spider-Man' would happen—it was just when," said Taymor, the creative force behind one of Broadway's biggest current hits, "The Lion King."

Carney is lead of the rock band Carney, which has just released its first full-length album, "Mr. Green." The 26-year-old performer has appeared in several films including Taymor's upcoming adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," in which he plays Ferdinand.

The cast also includes Evan Rachel Wood as Mary Jane Watson, Parker's girl friend, and Alan Cumming in the role of Norman Osborn, also known as the villainous Green Goblin.

The story for the musical was inspired by the Marvel comic books hero—who has also inspired three hit movies—and will include the story of his origins as well as new material.

Other members of the show's production team include set designer George Tsypin—who did the sets for "The Little Mermaid" on Broadway—costume designer Eiko Ishioka, lighting designer Donald Holder of "The Lion King" and sound designer Jonathan Deans who has worked for Cirque du Soleil.

Judge OKs plea deal for 'Girls Gone Wild' founder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge sentenced "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis on Friday to 301 days already served and a year of probation for filing false income tax returns and bribing Nevada jail workers.

U.S. District Judge S. James Otero accepted the terms of a plea deal between Francis and prosecutors, who struck the agreement after learning on the eve of trial that a key witness had withheld information from them.

An ecstatic Francis politely answered questions during the hearing then turned and kissed his mother after he was sentenced.

"I think we won that one," he said after the hearing.

The soft-porn mogul who filmed and marketed videos of young women was indicted by a federal grand jury on tax evasion charges in 2007. He initially was accused of taking $20 million in fraudulent tax deductions.

Under the deal, Francis pleaded guilty in September to two misdemeanor counts of filing false tax returns and one count of bribing Nevada jail workers in exchange for food.

He acknowledged omitting more than $500,000 in interest income on his 2003 tax returns and said he gave more than $5,000 in goods to the jail employees.

The plea deal also required Francis to pay $250,000 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service.

Otero did not restrict travel by Francis but said he must tell authorities if he intended to travel abroad.

Francis vowed to steer clear of trouble and get back to work building the "Girls Gone Wild" brand in the U.S. and abroad.

The tax case against him fizzled when his former accountant Michael Barrett told prosecutors about hundreds of e-mails that Francis is using in a lawsuit against Barrett.

Francis accuses Barrett in the pending litigation of fraudulently billing him for hundreds of thousands of dollars in phony goods and expenses.

Barrett, who had filed tax returns for Francis, had sought a reward from the IRS for pointing out alleged wrongdoing, a move that Otero told prosecutors put his credibility in serious question.

A phone message left for Barrett's attorney was not immediately returned Friday.

In a Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009 file photo, Joe Francis, the founder of the "Girls Gone Wild" video empire, smiles as he leaves the Edward R. Roybal Center and Federal Building court on in Los Angeles.

AP

Tom Hanks-produced '4-D' film comes to WWII Museum

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Actor Tom Hanks says viewers are in for a realistic "wartime experience" when the new film he produced, "Beyond All Boundaries," opens at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans on Friday.

The film will be shown exclusively at the museum's new Victory Theater, which includes "4-D" elements such as props, simulated winds and shaking seats. Images from Pearl Harbor to the wintry Battle of the Bulge—the final major German offensive against the Allies—are shown on a 120-foot (36-meter)-wide screen.

The film incorporates vintage film footage, animation and sensory effects so audiences can feel the rumbling of tank treads and booming of anti-aircraft fire.

"This is not just a widescreen movie," said Hanks, who narrates the 35-minute film, as well as an introductory video that will be shown as viewers wait to enter the theater. "There's actual things that pop up, actual elements that come into it that put you in the environment."

Victory Theater has been a highly anticipated attraction at the museum. The theater was built specifically for "Beyond All Boundaries" as part of a $300 million museum expansion that is expected to continue through 2015. Federal and state funds, along with private donations, have so far generated about $90 million for the project.

Two other additions—a canteen that will showcase musical revues inspired by USO-style productions and a restaurant called The American Sector that will be overseen by chef John Besh—are also opening Friday.

"We think of it as a World War II museum history park with a variety of things to engage visitors," said Gordon "Nick" Mueller, the museum's president and chief executive officer. "It's going to be very special."

Hanks, the star of "Saving Private Ryan" and an executive producer on the World War II miniseries "Band of Brothers" and the upcoming follow-up called "The Pacific," said the planning and making of "Beyond All Boundaries" took about five years. He said one of the toughest aspects of the project was trying to decide what elements of World War II would be represented in such a short film.

What had to be captured, "without question," Hanks said, were the economic and human costs and the war's roots in the civil rights and women's rights movements.

"We had a Jim Crow society when all that happened," Hanks said. "We still had segregated armed forces ... We asked guys to go off and risk their lives and come back home and ride in the back of the bus. There was no way that brand of injustice could continue in our country after that war."

Hanks said there was an enormous sense of pride among those affiliated with the project, including the film's creative director, Phil Hettema.

"We all kind of understood from the beginning that this is an important story to tell," Hettema said. "It's a seminal moment in our country's history and who we are today. Our notion of who we are as Americans was forged by World War II."

Hettema said keeping the film experience authentic was important. He even incorporated authentic props, such as a 1940s radio for the broadcasting of the news of Pearl Harbor in the film. He also based a prop of a concentration camp guard tower on the design of actual towers at Buchenwald and Auschwitz.

Hanks and others affiliated with the film are slated to walk a red carpet Thursday for a private screening. On Friday there will be a military flyover and red carpet procession of World War II veterans, and entertainer Mickey Rooney is scheduled to perform with his band.

The celebration will continue through the weekend with a Victory Stomp block party Saturday and a retrospective honoring the museum's founder, the late Stephen Ambrose, on Sunday.

Hanks said Ambrose's idea to put the museum in New Orleans was "an absolute home run" for both the city and the rest of the country.

Hanks has helped raise money for the museum from its start in the 1990s. It opened in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and later was designated by Congress as the country's official World War II museum.

"I feel like I've been lucky to be a part of the building blocks of something that, in a perfect world, will last forever," he said.

AP

Luis Betancourt puts a door in the restaurant called The American Sector while workers hurry to finish the Victory Theater in New Orleans Tuesday, NOv. 3, 2009 in time to show "Beyond All Boundaries," a war film produced by Tom Hanks opening on Friday. The theater is part of a $300 million expansion of the National WWII Museum.

Latin singer Alejandro Sanz searches for paradise

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Whenever Latin pop sensation Alejandro Sanz writes music, he sets off on a "long mental journey" to find inspiration. But when Alicia Keys surprised the singer at a party in New York by joining him in an impromptu jam session, Sanz knew then that he'd found his muse.

"I simply grabbed a guitar and we started to improvise, singing and playing. After that, we decided then that we needed to do something together," he said in an interview. "Working with her was such a marvelous thing. She's a great artist, a great woman, and it turned out to be something marvelous between us."

The end result is reflected in their new duet, "Looking For Paradise."

The 15-time Latin Grammy winner, who has performed on stage with Destiny's Child at the second annual Latin Grammy Awards and who collaborated with Colombian singer Shakira on her 2005 smash hit song "La Tortura," said he's found the same work ethic in Keys as he did with his other female counterparts.

Of Shakira and Keys, he said, "The two have things very much in common. For example, when it's time to work, they are perfectionists and they like to be at work until the very last detail is done. They are very much perfectionists and have a sensibility for music."

Despite rumors circulating for months that the 40-year-old raspy-voiced singer was working on a crossover English language studio album, "Looking for Paradise" is the only English track from his upcoming album, "Paraiso Express," due out on Nov. 10.

The music video for the lead song finds the Madrid-born singer and the R&B songstress searching for each other and later meeting up at a rooftop party in New York City—in a symbolic gesture of unity among two singers from different musical worlds.

"The song is so beautiful. It's touching. It's uplifting. It's worldwide. It really talks about the way we're all looking for something and how we can all find it," Keys says in a video posted on Sanz' Web site. "I just love this idea of bringing worlds together. I think that's what it's all about."

"Paraiso Express" is Sanz's eighth studio album in three years, and he linked up with producers Swizz Beatz and Tommy Torres, who has worked with Latin singers Ricardo Arjona and Ricky Martin. He said he hopes listeners will enjoy the journey and "find for themselves the 'Paraiso' within."

"I hope this album motivates listeners to look for their own paradise, that paradise that very often is inside us, although we insist in looking for it in the outside," he said.

AP

In this Jan. 18, 2009 file photo, singer Alejandro Sanz attends the Latino 2009 Inaugural Gala at Union Station in Washington.

Hopper: All's 'good right now' despite cancer

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP)—Prostate cancer couldn't keep Dennis Hopper away from the Breeders' Cup on Saturday.

The 73-year-old actor and artist attended the Breeders' Cup in support of The V Foundation for Cancer Research, the official charity of the year-ending thoroughbred championships Saturday at Santa Anita Park in Southern California.

It was revealed last month that Hopper had been diagnosed with cancer, although he said Saturday he's been battling it for the past nine years. He's started a new, experimental treatment at the University of Southern California that he says he hopes will help.

"It has great promise," Hopper said. "Everything's good right now."

Hopper recently canceled his appearance at an exhibition of his artwork and photography at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne. He was hospitalized in New York last month and treated for dehydration.

Hopper is one of racing's biggest and best-known fans. He's been to five Breeders' Cups, including last year when he said he cashed a $17,000 trifecta ticket in the Classic, the signature race on thoroughbred racing's championship day.

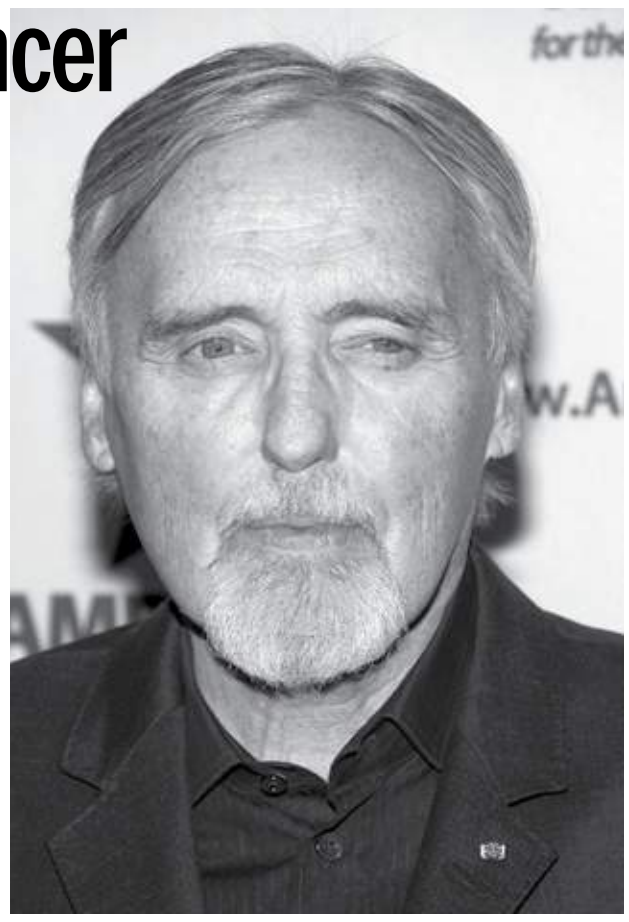
He's disappointed horse racing has lost some of its luster among the public but he believes the sport carries its own style and swagger that is alluring.

"It would be a drag to see the industry come down," Hopper said. "It's such a great tradition. I hope it gets well and goes on forever."

Hopper wouldn't say who he was going to choose in the Classic, only to note that Zenyatta, a 5-year-old mare, is a formidable foe for her male rivals.

"You can't count her out," he said. Zenyatta ended up winning the $5 million race to improve her record to 14-0.

The "Easy Rider" star recently finished shooting the second season of "Crash," a TV version of the Oscar-winning 2004 film. Hopper also has several film projects in the works.



AP

In this Oct. 5, 20909 photo shows Actor Dennis Hopper attending the 2009 National Arts Awards presented by Americans for the Arts at Cipriani's 42nd Street in New York.

POLICE:

LA celebrity burglaries led by 19-year-old

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 19-year-old woman was the driving force behind a youthful burglary ring that preyed on Hollywood's rich and famous, often brazenly walking into unlocked homes to make off with cash, jewels and family heirlooms, authorities said.

A suspect turned informant, Nicholas Prugo, told Los Angeles police detectives that Rachel Jungeon Lee spearheaded the break-ins, motivated by a desire to own the designer clothes and jewelry of such celebrities as Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton, according to a Las Vegas police search warrant obtained by The Associated Press on Friday.

Prugo, 18, told police Lee would suggest a target, then Prugo would trawl the Internet for information about where they lived and when they would be away from home. Las Vegas police were involved because Lee lives there.

Officials said Lee was booked on a charge of possession of stolen property and released after posting $3,000 bail. Prosecutors in Los Angeles asked police to investigate her further.

Police say the Lee and Prugo were part of a group of at least six that stole from October 2008 until September.

After watching a house, they would break into poorly protected properties, often by simply walking through unlocked doors.

Prugo said they removed cash, narcotics and thousands of dollars worth of jewelry, including family heirlooms.

Acting on a tip, police arrested Prugo on Sept. 17. He initially refused to talk to police, but on Oct. 6, he and his attorney met with detectives and Prugo "provided a full confession, and implicated several other suspects," court documents state.

"Prugo admitted to committing all of the burglaries and that Rachel Lee was with him during the residential burglaries of the homes of Audrina Patridge, Lindsay Lohan, Orlando Bloom, Rachel Bilson and the Hilton family," the search warrant states. "Prugo stated that it was Lee who would suggest a target and that he would surf the Internet to learn where the celebrity lived as well as the target's travel itinerary."

Prugo said Lee wanted to "own the designer wardrobes of the Hollywood celebrities she admired."

There was no answer at a Las Vegas number listed for a Rachel Lee. No listing was available for Prugo, and police in Los Angeles and Las Vegas reached Saturday had no information on an attorney for either suspect.

AP

This undated file photo released by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department shows Nicholas Frank Prugo, 18, who has been arrested on suspicion of breaking into the homes of Lindsey Lohan and actress Audrina Patridge.

Lee, Prugo and at least four others have been arrested in the case. The four others, most between the ages of 18 and 20, have been charged with felony burglary.

The search warrant states Prugo told police he and Lee broke into Hilton's house several times. At the Lohan house, the burglary crew gained entrance by prying open a window with a screwdriver, then swiped luggage, clothing and jewelry including a Rolex wristwatch with a blue face, Prugo told police.

He said expensive watches were also a target at Bloom's house, and several were stolen along with artwork and clothing.

A search of the Las Vegas home Lee shared with her father turned up a piece of paper with the names of her accomplices. Las Vegas Detective Ethan Grimes confirmed those people were the other subjects identified in the crime ring.

Police also found three photos of Paris Hilton, designer jeans, three computers, a Korean passport, 204 $100 bills and less than one ounce of marijuana when they arrested Lee at the home in northwest Las Vegas on Oct. 22, according to the warrants.

Joe Jackson seeks stipend from Michael's estate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's father is seeking an allowance from his son's estate to help cover expenses that exceed $15,000 a month, according to court documents filed Friday. The request seeking an unspecified amount for Joe Jackson was filed by lawyer Brian Oxman, who said there was no apparent reason for the administrators of the estate to not seek an allowance for the Jackson family patriarch.

Michael Jackson's 2002 will, however, omitted any mention of his father. The two had an often-strained relationship, and Michael Jackson said at one point that he would get physically sick—as a child and as an adult—at the sight of his father.

The singer's private trust calls for money to be paid to his mother, Katherine, his three young children, and various charities.

A judge has approved more than $26,000 in payments to Katherine Jackson each month, and a $60,000 monthly payment for the care of the children.

The latest court documents said Joe Jackson receives a $1,700 monthly Social Security payment and had relied on his son for support for many years.

"He does not have a regular or steady source of income, and he was dependent upon the money provided by his son, Michael Jackson, through his wife, Katherine Jackson, for his support," the filing stated.

"It was quite surprising to learn of the request," Howard Weitzman, an attorney for the administrators of Jackson's estate, said in a statement. "Mr. Jackson's petition will be considered as are all requests for money from Michael's estate."

Joe Jackson suffers from diabetes and had a stroke in 1998, the filing stated.

A former steelworker, he managed and trained his children and organized the Jackson 5. He has been married to Katherine Jackson for 50 years, but he lists his home in Las Vegas. She lives at a family home in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

The filings are inconsistent in several places, listing Joe Jackson's age as 80 in one place and 81 in another. A declaration states his monthly expenses exceed $20,000 a month, but an itemized list only includes slightly more than $15,000.

That list includes $1,200 a month on rent for his Las Vegas home; $2,500 to eat out; $1,000 on entertainment, gifts and vacations; $2,000 on air travel and $3,000 on hotels.

A phone message left for Oxman was not immediately returned.

A judge on Friday denied Joe Jackson's petition for an expedited hearing on the matter.

A hearing is scheduled for early 2010 at which time the payments to Katherine Jackson may be re-evaluated.

AP

In this Friday Oct. 2, 2009 file photo, Michael Jackson's father Joe Jackson smiles after leaving a guardianship hearing for Michael Jackson in Los Angeles.

A&E: Reality show about Jacksons premieres Dec. 13

NEW YORK (AP)—A reality show miniseries about the Jackson family will premiere Dec. 13 on A&E, the network says. Back-to-back hour episodes will air that night at 9 p.m. EST.

"The Jacksons: A Family Dynasty" focuses on brothers Jackie, Jermaine, Tito and Marlon as they prepare to reunite for a concert tour. It also chronicles their lives as they cope with Michael's drug-induced death in June.

There will be six episodes, the network said.

"This deeply intimate portrait will provide viewers with a raw and honest look inside a musical dynasty," said A&E and Bio Channel vice president Robert Sharenow.

It remained unclear whether Michael Jackson or his children, Paris, Prince Michael and Prince Michael II (known as Blanket), will be seen in the shows.

The cable network had originally announced "The Jacksons" as a documentary special in May, before the star's death. In August, "Entertainment Tonight" aired what A&E said was leaked footage from the special.

The 50-year-old King of Pop died June 25, weeks before he was scheduled to begin a string of comeback shows in London.

Rihanna: Chris Brown 'had no soul in his eyes'

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Diane Sawyer, left, interviews singer Rihanna about her relationship with ex-boyfriend Chris Brown in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna on Friday described the horror she felt as her ex-boyfriend Chris Brown was biting and punching her during a violent argument in February, saying she saw "no soul in his eyes."

"There was no person when I looked at him," the 21-year-old singer recalled during portions of an interview with Diane Sawyer airing on ABC's "20/20" and, earlier, "Good Morning America." "He had no soul in his eyes. Just blank."

Brown was arrested Feb. 8, hours after he was accused of beating Rihanna after the two argued over another woman. He later pleaded guilty to felony assault.

In the interview, Rihanna, who is no longer with Brown, described him as "definitely my first big love." She said their relationship was intense.

"The more in love we became, the more dangerous we became for each other - equally as dangerous," she said. "It was a bit of an obsession almost."

The attack occurred in Los Angeles' Hancock Park neighborhood as Brown drove a rented sports car. She said it was triggered when she saw a text message on his phone from another woman and confronted him about it. She said he lied about it and "I wouldn't drop it."

A search warrant affidavit filed in the case stated that Brown hit, choked and bit Rihanna and tried at one point to push her from the car.

"It was ugly," she said.

During the beating, the singer said she had no idea how it would end: "That's all I kept thinking the whole time, 'When is it going to stop? When is it going to stop?'"

Brown was sentenced to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic violence counseling after he pleaded guilty to felony assault.

Rihanna said that, even after her physical wounds had healed, she felt embarrassment and shame.

"You start thinking, 'What could I possibly have said to make him hit me and do this?' ... I didn't talk about it to anyone. To no one. Not my friends, not my family. I didn't want people looking at me and feeling sorry for me, like, 'There goes the victim.'"

Rihanna warned other women facing domestic violence to not let themselves become blinded by love. She also said she regretted going back to Brown, saying it sent the wrong message to her fans.

Brown, 20, has apologized to fans and has said he has repeatedly apologized to Rihanna for the attack.

Despite the beating, Rihanna said she still cares about Brown.

"I don't hate him at all," she said. "I actually love and care about him and I'm concerned about him doing well. I want him to do well—have a great career, have a great life, and grow up. Just take this as something that you had to go through to grow up and learn."

Rihanna's interview coincides with the debut of her new single, "Russian Roulette," from her upcoming album, "Rated R."

Nick Counter, Hollywood studios' negotiator, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nick Counter, a longtime negotiator for Hollywood producers who led the studios through two grueling writers' strikes last year and in 1988, has died. He was 69.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers says Counter died at a Los Angeles hospital on Friday.

Counter served as the group's president for 27 years and negotiated more than 300 collective bargaining agreements with entertainment industry guilds and unions on behalf of movie studios, television networks and independent producers.

Current AMPTP President Carol Lombardini says Counter's ability to find consensus at the bargaining table led to a sustained era of labor peace.

His family says he was most proud of his work with the industry health and pension plans.

NYC's Village Gate club owner, Art D'Lugoff, dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Art D'Lugoff (Duh-LOO'-guhf), who owned the famed Village Gate nightclub in New York City, has died. He was 85.

D'Lugoff died Wednesday at a Manhattan hospital. His brother, Burt D'Lugoff, said a cause of death was not yet known.

D'Lugoff opened the Greenwich Village club in 1958. He hired blacklisted singers Paul Robeson and Pete Seeger and fired Dustin Hoffman as a waiter. Hoffman, then a struggling actor, later said he was so distracted by the performers that he neglected customers.

Other performers included jazz greats John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk.

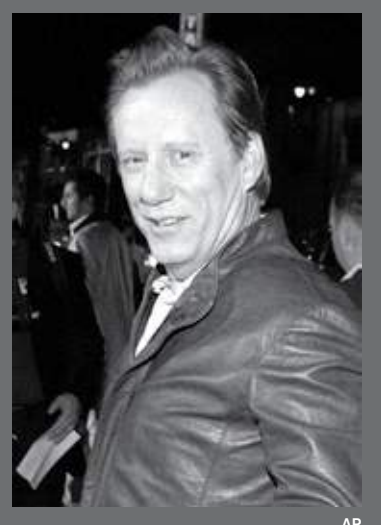
The Village Gate closed in 1994.

Beside his brother, D'Lugoff is survived by his wife, Avital Achai, a son and three daughters.

Actor James Woods sues RI hospital in brother's death

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—Two-time Oscar-nominated actor James Woods has sued a Rhode Island hospital over the 2006 death of his younger brother.

Woods on Friday would not discuss the lawsuit in detail, but told The Associated Press he wants "justice" for his brother, Michael, who was 49 when he died at Kent Hospital in Warwick of what was believed to be a heart attack.



AP

In this March 5, 2008 photo, James Woods arrives at the premiere of "10,000 BC" in Los Angeles. Woods has sued a Rhode Island hospital over the 2006 death of his younger brother.

Woods, who is the executor of his brother's estate, claims his brother received negligent medical care. A spokesperson for the hospital did not return an e-mail seeking comment Friday. It was not immediately clear how much money or other damages Woods is seeking through the lawsuit.

A jury was selected this week and lawyers argued motions in court Friday, including one from the defense that sought to restrict the admissibility of statements of bereavement or mourning from Michael Woods's son, Peyton.

Opening statements are scheduled for Monday in Kent County Superior Court.

James Woods, who lived in Warwick growing up, received Oscar nominations for his performances in "Ghosts of Mississippi" and "Salvador." Other credits include "Nixon," "Casino," "Any Given Sunday," and the CBS legal drama "Shark."

Lawyers for both sides declined to comment after court Friday.

Michael Woods was also an actor who appeared in several of his brother's films, including "Rudy: The Rudy Giuliani Story," a 2003 TV movie. He twice ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Warwick and was also a coin dealer and appraiser and small businessman.

Time has come to end girl's bathroom bonding with dad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I need an unbiased opinion. I am the father of a 12-year-old daughter, "Lia." She catches an early morning bus for school, and I leave for work at the same time her bus picks her up, so I'm in charge of getting her ready in the morning.

Although we have two bathrooms—one upstairs and one down—neither of us wants to use the downstairs bathroom to get ready. All our stuff is upstairs.

When I wake Lia up each morning, she heads into the shower and I go feed the dog. I then go into the bathroom and shave while she's in the shower. While I'm shaving we discuss sports and life in general. When I'm finished, I leave until she's done showering and goes back into her room. I then take my shower.

Is this wrong? Lia's mother thinks it's inappropriate for me to be in the bathroom at all while she's taking a shower. I think it is efficient because neither of us is willing to use the other bathroom, and I find it's a good time to find out what's going on in her life. Who's right?

RIGHT OR WRONG IN WISCONSIN

DEAR RIGHT OR WRONG: Your wife is correct. It's not a matter of "right or wrong." It's a matter of what is appropriate.

At 12, your daughter is becoming a young woman. Either you or Lia needs to start using the downstairs bathroom. If you can't agree on who that will be, then draw straws. You can bond with her over breakfast.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My old college roommate "Gina" and I live several states apart, but we have remained close over the years. Whenever I call her, her husband picks up an extension and listens in. We don't know he's listening until he says something. Other times, he'll stand next to her and constantly interrupt her while we're talking. He has his own friends and hobbies, and Gina does not know why he keeps butting in.

I have spoken to him when she is unavailable to make him feel involved, but this three-way conversation is bugging me. Since Gina appears to be unable to tell him to cut it out, what should I do?

MIFFED IN MADISON

DEAR MIFFED: I see no reason why you shouldn't tell Gina —whether her husband is listening or not—how intrusive you feel her husband's eavesdropping is and that you would like your conversations to be private. After that, it will be up to her to decide where to draw the line.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am fortunate. I come from a close and loving family. Even though we have come through some difficult times recently, it has drawn us closer, strengthened our love and fueled our resolve to support each other no matter what.

So why am I writing? I am so full of love and emotion that it's not unusual for me to cry frequently. When we say goodbye after a visit, I cry more than anyone else. My daughter says it's a real downer—and others feel awkward. So how does one turn off the flow of tears?

TEARY-EYED IN ALABAMA

DEAR TEARY-EYED: As long as a person understands the reason why she (or he) is crying—and it isn't because of displaced emotions—tears are nothing to be embarrassed about, and I see no reason to stifle them. However, it's one thing to shed a few tears and another to come completely unglued. Because your display of emotion makes "others feel awkward," and if this is new behavior, it may be time to consult your physician to determine what's triggering the waterworks.

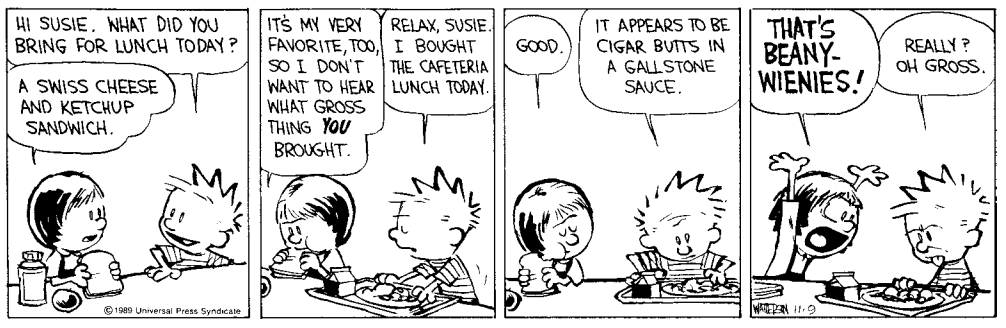
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI SUSIE. WHAT DID YOU BRING FOR LUNCH TODAY?
A SWISS CHEESE AND KETCHUP SANDWICH.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
IT'S MY VERY FAVORITE, TOO, SO I DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT GROSS THING YOU BROUGHT.
RELAX, SUSIE. I BOUGHT THE CAFETERIA LUNCH TODAY.
GOOD.
IT APPEARS TO BE CIGAR BUTTS IN A GALLSTONE SAUCE.
THAT'S BEANY-WIENIES!
REALLY? OH GROSS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW'S LIFE BEEN TREATING YOU, HON?
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NOW, IRMA!
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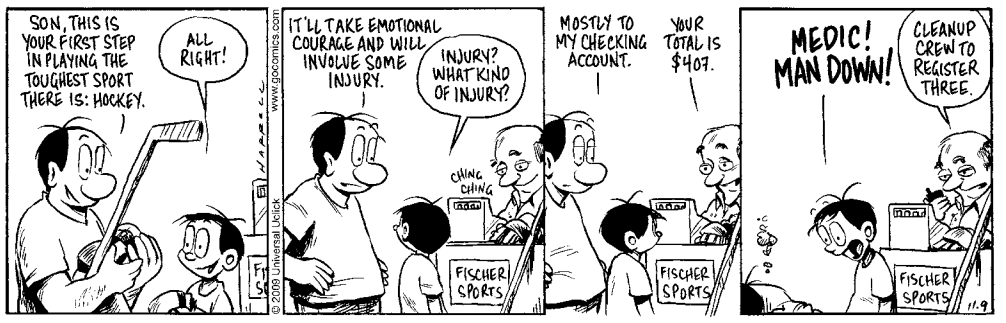
www.garfield.com
I THINK SHE NEEDS A SHAVE, HON
I WOULDN'T TALK WITH THOSE LEGS, HON
JIM DAVIS 11-9

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SON, THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP IN PLAYING THE TOUGHEST SPORT THERE IS: HOCKEY.
ALL RIGHT!
IT'LL TAKE EMOTIONAL COURAGE AND WILL INVOLVE SOME INJURY.
INJURY? WHAT KIND OF INJURY?
CHING CHING
FISCHER SPORTS
MOSTLY TO MY CHECKING ACCOUNT.
YOUR TOTAL IS $407.
FISCHER SPORTS
MEDIC! MAN DOWN!
CLEANUP CREW TO REGISTER THREE.
FISCHER SPORTS
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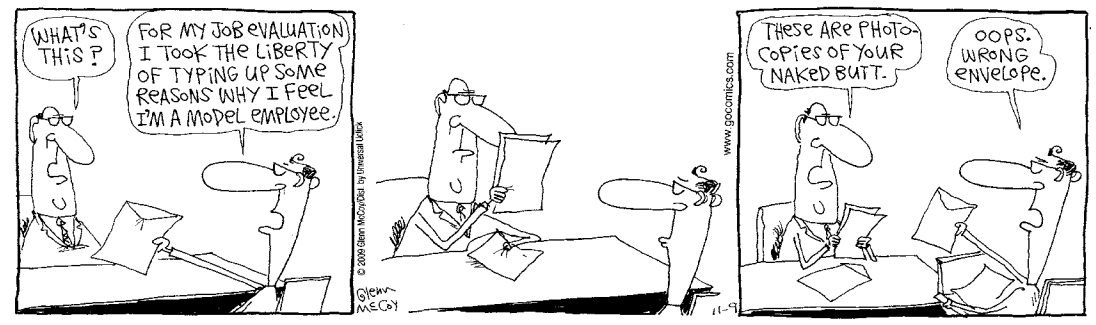
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT'S THIS?
FOR MY JOB EVALUATION I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TYPING UP SOME REASONS WHY I FEEL I'M A MODEL EMPLOYEE.
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Glenn McCOY
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OOPS. WRONG ENVELOPE.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

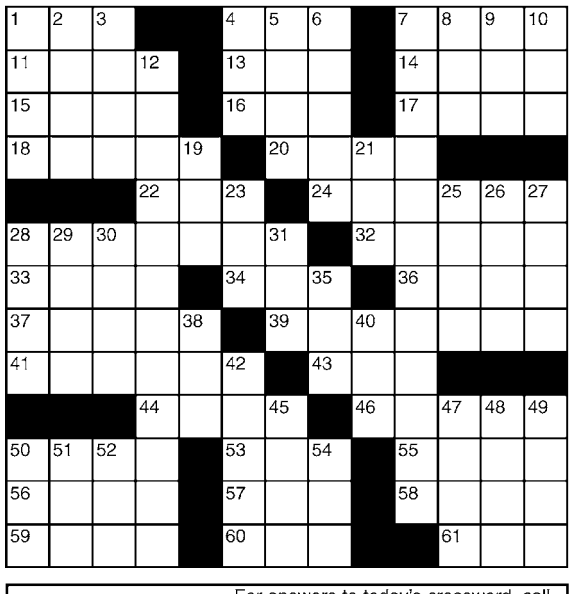
ACROSS
1 Mine output
4 Mel of baseball lore
7 Bull's offspring
11 Sandwich shop
13 Lawyer's payment
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Platter
16 E-mail alternative
17 Eastern potentate
18 Villain's look
20 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
22 Taxi
24 Nuanced
28 Continue
32 React to a pun
33 Lotion additive
34 Symbol of intrigue
36 Greek liqueur
37 Violin virtuoso Stern
39 Profligate
41 Standard
43 Homer's interjection
44 Grouch
46 Chutzpah
50 Martial art
53 Lair
55 Regrets
56 Related
57 Writer Buscaglia
58 Cut quickly
59 Simmons or Kelly
60 Blunder
61 TV Tarzan portrayer Ron

DOWN
1 Probability
2 Harness part
3 Otherwise
4 Vacationing
5 Shipbuilding wood
6 Largest of the 48
7 Film directors Joel and Ethan
8 Branch
9 Hawaiian memento
10 In support of
12 Scoop holder
19 Beam of light
21 Embrace
23 Acknowledge applause
25 Go sightseeing
26 Lounge around
27 Carbon compound
28 First murderer
29 Additionally
30 Bellow
31 Fresh
35 Lousy
38 Automobile
40 Trinity member
42 Punchbowl accessory
45 "Cheers" request
47 Mystical character
48 Bridal cover
49 Catch sight of
50 Binge
51 Guitar's cousin
52 Cacophony
54 Neither partner

Solution time: 24 mins.

	C	R	E	E	P		S	E	W	E	D	
S	H	O	R	E	S		U	R	A	N	U	S
T	A	N	G	L	E		B	A	N	G	L	E
O	L	D		Y	U	R	T	S		A	L	E
M	E	O	W		D	U	E		A	G	E	D
A	T	S	E	A		E	X	C	E	E	D	S
			A	R	C		T	U	G			
S	T	A	R	T	U	P		D	I	S	C	O
L	O	T	S		R	E	B		S	T	O	A
E	G	O		C	L	A	I	M		I	L	K
W	A	N	G	L	E		J	A	N	G	L	E
S	E	E	S	A	W		O	N	E	M	A	N
	D	R	A	W	S		U	N	B	A	R	

Saturday's answer 11-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sisqo, 31; Nick Lachey, 36; Chris Jericho, 39; Susan Tedeschi, 39

Happy Birthday: You need a change more than you realize and you should be considering everything from a major move, acquiring more skills or taking up a hobby that has the potential of another income. Don't end up having regrets because you didn't follow your heart. Act on the opportunities that come your way. Take the initiative if you want to get ahead. Your numbers are 1, 7, 15, 23, 31, 35, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your ambitious attitude will help you share your ideas with those as intent to get ahead as you. Together, you may be able to form a unique and successful group. Financial gains can be made if you are smart with money. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself and you'll avoid upsetting loved ones. You will discover that the people you are closest to may not have the same intentions or direction you are taking. You may have to make a difficult but necessary decision. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be inclined to exaggerate, making it essential that you leave yourself enough time to follow through with promises made. In doing so, you will be a big hit with your friends, neighbors and relatives. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't overspend because you are feeling low. Being generous will not buy love, respect or loyalty. Consider what's bringing you down and eliminate your problem. You will be glad you made the necessary changes. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be sensitive and understanding and you can avoid upset, anger and an argument. If you force others to do things your way, you'll be accused of meddling and blamed for not being fair. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your mind on what's important. Take care of your responsibilities and don't get involved in what others are doing. You will have enough to deal with without taking on someone else's battles. False information will lead to someone's taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Attend an event that will encourage you to meet new friends and make connections to help you achieve your goals. Volunteer your services. This is not the time to spend money but offering your time will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Jealousy will lead to disaster. If things aren't going according to plan or you feel someone is not paying enough attention to you, consider why. Your professional and mature attitude will help you get through troubled times. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will do better with matters concerning outsiders or peers than those of your loved ones. Avoid any personal concerns. Time and distance have a way of dealing with such issues. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on your own investments or bank balance for now. If you are diligent about where your money goes, you can save enough to invest in yourself and your own endeavors. Be creative and network. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Some relationships are best left alone. When trust is lacking, there is nothing you can do but move on. Change may be inevitable but once it is made you will feel better about your future. Get out with friends who are supportive. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will have an opportunity that you must not pass by. Talk to people who are interested in what you do and share what you have to offer. Don't let your restlessness cause you to go in the wrong direction. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are observant and sensitive to what others do and say. You are productive and progressive and aren't afraid of change.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	9	4		1		8	6	2
7								3
6		8				1		5
			2		9			
5								4
			7		4			
4		1				3		9
2								7
8	3	7		2		4	5	1

Difficulty Level ★ 11/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	7	1	5	9	3	2	8
3	9	2	6	7	8	5	1	4
1	5	8	4	3	2	7	6	9
5	2	9	7	4	1	6	8	3
7	4	6	8	9	3	2	5	1
8	3	1	5	2	6	4	9	7
2	1	5	3	8	7	9	4	6
9	8	3	2	6	4	1	7	5
6	7	4	9	1	5	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOOD HAIR DAYS **Solution: 8 letters**

S	E	T	T	E	R	R	A	B	F	U	L	L	T	Y
S	E	D	I	S	B	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T
P	F	I	H	A	R	O	L	O	C	N	M	E	A	I
R	I	I	R	E	H	O	L	D	O	P	P	M	N	D
A	N	B	S	O	I	U	R	I	E	E	I	O	O	I
Y	E	S	H	O	S	M	S	R	C	N	I	H	S	M
R	E	A	O	T	F	S	A	N	G	S	T	F	A	U
S	I	O	R	C	E	T	E	G	A	A	A	N	E	H
R	F	O	T	F	U	D	E	C	E	N	E	M	S	K
T	U	R	O	R	I	R	C	N	Ⓒ	K	R	H	M	C
S	R	R	E	F	D	O	L	Y	C	Ⓐ	A	I	O	A
I	P	E	N	S	N	O	R	I	H	M	Ⓡ	O	O	B
W	U	O	A	C	H	T	H	C	P	T	L	Ⓔ	T	O
T	C	O	N	D	I	T	I	O	N	E	R	T	H	D
P	R	E	T	T	Y	S	O	R	D	E	R	L	Y	Y

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Accessories, Back, Barber, Barrettes, Body, Care, Charm, Color, Conditioner, Confidence, Cool, Curl, Fancy, Fine, Fresh, Full, Hair, Hold, Home, Humidity, Image, Iron, Lustrous, Neat, Occasion, Orderly, Pretty, Professional, Ready, Root, Season, Shampoo, Shiny, Short, Sides, Smooth, Soften, Spray, Taming, Temperature, Thicken, Treatment, Tresses, Trim, Twist,

Last Saturday's Answer: Mexican

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EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. CGECU-09-001
OPENING DATE: 11/09/09
CLOSING DATE: 12/09/09

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligibility list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: ACCOUNTANT $25,000.00 - $30,000.00 P/A
The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Credit Union Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan

DUTIES:
The Accountant is responsible for the overall daily record and bookkeeping of the financial accounting of the Credit Union. He or she is charged with the responsibility to assist the General Manager in reporting, forecasting, formulating, and analyzing the financial, budgetary and economic activities and to assist in proposing changes to policies and procedures affecting the same areas of responsibilities of the Credit Union. He or she must be able to operate QuickBooks Accounting System.

The Accountant has the inherent responsibility to assist the General Manager in carrying out the principles and objectives delineated and prescribed by Public Law 9-52, its subsequent amendments, the Regulations, Bylaws, Board Resolutions, and all other policies and procedures and as directed by the Board of Directors through and/or by the General Manager. The Accountant reports and answers directly to the General Manager. The Accountant acts on behalf of the General Manager whenever the General Manager is absent from the Commonwealth, mentally or physically incapacitated or as directed by the Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
The Accountant must possess a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a United States accredited academic institution preferably in the field of accounting with five (5) years accounting experience. However, academic degree in economics of finance or other field in the business administration will suffice as long as the applicant has five years working experience as an accountant. The Board may prescribe other qualifications.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABE AT THE CREDIT UNION OFFICE IN CAPITOL HILL, GOV'T BUILDING #1365, ANATAHAN DRIVE. APPLICANT MUST BE A US CITIZEN OR US PERMANENT RESIDENT.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND OR DROP OFF (ADDRESS ABOVE) THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS AND AN UPDATE RESUME TO:
Commonwealth Government Employees'
Credit Union
PO Box 500135
Saipan MP 96950

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Ci2i

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Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#JVA10-001 **CLOSING DATE: November 17, 2009**

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking professionals and motivated individuals to work in a busy and challenging office. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidates and in compliance with CNMI laws. The following positions are available:

		Salary Range (Pay Level)
1.	Fund Legal Counsel	Up to $70,000, depending on experience
2.	Benefits Technician II	Starting at $14,388.82 (20), depending on experience
3.	Benefits Technician I	Starting at $13,052.98 (18), depending on experience

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, and police clearance** to the NMI Retirement Fund by hand delivery, mail or electronically. Applications and the complete Position Description are available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail from the Administrator. The closing date for all positions is **Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA10-001 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.**

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Celtics bounce back to keep Nets winless

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Rajon Rondo and Paul Pierce each scored 16 points, and the Boston Celtics bounced back from their first loss of the season to beat the winless New Jersey Nets 86-76 on Saturday night

Ray Allen came alive after three dismal quarters to score eight of his 12 points in the fourth quarter for the Celtics (7-1), who lost 110-103 to Phoenix on Friday night, allowing 20 more points than in any previous game.

Their defense was back Saturday—and it needed to be, because the Celtics couldn't shoot for most of the night. Boston finished with 20 steals, five by Rondo, scoring 19 points off New Jersey's 24 turnovers.

Kevin Garnett shot 3 of 13 but added nine points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics, who beat the Nets for the 10th straight time, their longest winning streak in the series since claiming 11 in a row from 1980-82.

Brook Lopez, the only regular starter available, scored 23 points, and Rafer Alston had 20 for the Nets (0-7).

The Nets likely ran out of gas in the fourth quarter while playing with only eight players. Starting forward Chris Douglas-Roberts tested positive for swine flu and Courtney Lee has a strained left groin, leaving the Nets with the NBA minimum amount of players to start a game.

"Well, we're down to the great eight," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said before the game.

That was good enough for 3 1/2 quarters until Allen, who was 1 of 7 through three quarters, knocked down a pair of jumpers for an 80-72 lead with 4:09 to play.

The Nets scored the first five points and led by as much as eight before the Celtics tied it at 18 after one. Neither team had any flow in the first half, with the Nets committing 15 turnovers but Boston converting them into only six points.

AP

Boston Celtics' Ray Allen (20) puts up a shot as he gets by New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Doc Rivers looked disgusted by some of his team's sloppy plays, including one long pass attempt by Rondo that resembled a tee shot getting caught in the wind, hooking left until it flew out of bounds and landed by the Boston bench.

Josh Boone's layup gave New Jersey a 40-39 lead at halftime.

The Celtics seemed to be seizing the game in the third, when two straight layups by Rondo after Boston steals made it 52-45. Garnett's three-point player later gave the Celtics and eight-point advantage, but they stalled again and the Nets rallied for a 61-59 heading to the fourth.

Garnett and Allen were a combined 3 of 18 through three.

Hawks 125, Nuggets 100

At Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored 25 points, and Josh Smith had 22 points, nine rebounds, six blocked shots and seven assists for Atlanta.

Joe Johnson added 21 points, and Marvin Williams had 14.

Carmelo Anthony had 30 points for Denver, and Chauncey Billups added 25. The Nuggets have lost two straight after opening 5-0.

Mavericks 129, Raptors 101

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and nine rebounds, and Josh Howard scored 16 in his season debut for Dallas following ankle and wrist injures.

Jason Terry added 19 points, and Shawn Marion had 18 points and eight rebounds for Dallas. Dallas native Chris Bosh had 26 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto.

Bulls 93, Bobcats 90

At Chicago, John Salmons scored 27 points, and Joakim Noah added a career-high 21 and had 16 rebounds in Chicago's third straight win.

The Bulls had a 16-0 run in the third and fourth quarters that turned a nine-point deficit into a seven-point lead at 77-70.

Boris Diaw led Charlotte with 20 points.

Kings 104, Jazz 99

At Salt Lake City, Tyreke Evans scored a career-high 32 points as Sacramento held off Utah in the Kings' first game without high-scoring guard Kevin Martin.

Evans, the fourth overall pick in the June draft, became the focal point of the Kings' offense in place of Martin, who averaged 30.6 points in the first five games. Martin will have surgery Monday to repair a fracture in his left wrist.

Deron Williams had 29 points and 15 assists for Utah.

Bucks 102, Knicks 87

At Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut scored a season-high 22 points and had eight rebounds, and rookie Jodie Meeks added 19 points for Milwaukee.

Rookie Brandon Jennings added 17 points to help the Bucks improve to 3-2. David Lee had 18 points and seven rebounds for New York (1-6).

Nets forward Chris Douglas-Roberts has swine flu

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—Chris Douglas-Roberts tested positive for swine flu, another blow to a New Jersey Nets team that is losing players as quickly as games.

Douglas-Roberts had started every game for the winless Nets until missing a loss at Philadelphia on Friday with flu-like symptoms. Nets president Rod Thorn confirmed on Saturday that Douglas-Roberts tested positive for the H1N1 virus.

Thorn said the player has been treated and the Nets are following all precautionary measures called for by the NBA.

Nets coach Lawrence Frank said he had spoken on Saturday to Douglas-Roberts, saying, "He doesn't sound very good." Frank said he believed Douglas-Roberts was no longer contagious, but doesn't know when he will return.

"All the measures are taken, now it's a matter of when he feels better," Frank said.

The diagnosis is the latest blow to a team that has been hit by a wave of injuries. Guard Courtney Lee also was sidelined on Saturday with a strained left groin, leaving New Jersey with only eight players in uniform, the minimum allowed, for its game against Boston.

The Nets are the only team in the league without a victory and at 0-6 are off to the worst start in team history.

Douglas-Roberts has been averaging 15.6 points and 4.8 rebounds in five games.

Zenyatta, a mare, wins Breeders' Cup Classic

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP)—What a gal!

Zenyatta overcame early trouble to beat the boys in the $5 million Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday, running her record to 14-0 in the most impressive effort of her career.

The 5-year-old mare rallied from last after a poor start and fought off Gio Ponti in the stretch to win by a length at Santa Anita, beating a loaded field of 11 males and becoming the first female to win the Classic in its 26-year history.

"There are tears coming to my eyes. I can't believe it," said trainer John Shirreffs, who eschewed a box seat to watch his star horse from the rail near the finish line.

Quality Road was scratched at the starting gate after he acted up and scraped his hind leg, delaying the start by several minutes. Zenyatta initially turned sideways when it was time to enter the gate, and all the commotion may have explained her poor start.

She broke on the wrong foot and dropped well behind the field, and Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith let Zenyatta lope along near the back—her usual running style in the early going.

"At the half-mile pole, I thought, 'Oh God, they're stacked up. There's no way I'm going to get around all these horses,'" Smith said.

Rounding the final turn, Zenyatta still had a lot of ground to make up on the leaders and her chances appeared bleak.

"If she wins this, she'll be a super horse," announcer Trevor Denman shouted in his call.

Zenyatta then made a bold inside move midway through the far turn, and Smith angled her to the far outside as the crowd of 58,845 fans erupted.

Showing the grit of an undefeated champion, Zenyatta closed relentlessly and denied Gio Ponti the upset. Smith pumped his left arm as Zenyatta galloped past the grandstand for possibly the last time in her sterling career.

Owners Jerry and Ann Moss said Zenyatta, named after the 1980 album "Zenyatta Mondata" by The Police, likely will go to the breeding shed next year.

"I think she deserves to go out now with her record intact," Jerry Moss said.

Zenyatta ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:00.62 and paid $7.60, $5.60 and $3.80 as the 5-2 favorite.

"She's sent from heaven," said Smith, who lovingly patted Zenyatta's mane on the way to the gate. "She's incredible. I still didn't hit all gears."

Gio Ponti returned $9.20 and $6.60, while Britain-bred Twice Over paid $7 to show.

"The horse ran a great race, but he couldn't beat the winner," said Christophe Clement, who trains Gio Ponti. "She's a freak. What can I say?"

More than $1 million was bet to win on both Zenyatta and 3-1 second choice Rip Van Winkle, an Irish import who finished 10th.

Belmont Stakes winner Summer Bird was fourth and Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird ninth, extending his losing streak to five straight since his 50-1 upset on the first Saturday in May.

Zenyatta was the star of the show, prancing as she paraded past the grandstand on her way to the gate. Fans held up pink signs reading "Girl power! Go Zenyatta" and roared when the hometown hero came through the tunnel and stepped onto the synthetic track.

"The way the crowd took to her was just amazing," Shirreffs said. "They cheered for her, they clapped for her, they love her. What a wonderful relationship."

The Mosses decided to enter Zenyatta in the Classic instead of trying to defend her title in the $2 million Ladies' Classic on Friday.

"We thought that she deserved this chance," Jerry Moss said.

Her presence gave a big boost to the signature event of the two-day world championships, which was missing the year's other star female, Rachel Alexandra.

The 3-year-old filly went 8 for 8 this year, including three wins against the boys, one coming in the Preakness Stakes. But Rachel Alexandra's owner, Jess Jackson, shut her down for the season rather than run her on the synthetic surface, which he dislikes.

Debate had raged in the week leading up to the Classic about whether Zenyatta could handle an international field of males and possibly snatch away Horse of the Year honors from Rachel Alexandra. The argument only intensifies after her explosive performance.

"If they don't reward her with Horse of the Year, it would be a travesty, or at least co-Horses of the Year," said Bob Baffert, who trained sixth-place finisher Richard's Kid. "It was the only time in horse racing that I didn't mind getting beat in a big race. Zenyatta made the Breeders' Cup, and the way she won! I've never seen a crowd so captivated."

Smith endorsed Zenyatta for the top honor, last won by a female in 2002 with Azeri, who also was ridden by Smith.

"She's horse of the decade by far," he said. "She should go down as one of the greatest horses of all time."

Colonel John was fifth, followed by Richard's Kid, Awesome Gem, Regal Ransom, Mine That Bird, Rip Van Winkle, Einstein and Girolamo.

American horses earned eight victories over the two-day championships, with Europe-based horses winning six, one better than last year's total.

Irish import Goldikova successfully defended her title in the $2 million Mile against 10 male rivals. Another Irish horse, Conduit, repeated in the $3 million Turf, and Pounced won the $1 million Juvenile Turf.

Three geldings won races—California Flag in the $1 million Turf Sprint; Dancing in Silks in the $2 million Sprint; and Furthest Land in the $1 million Dirt Mile.

Vale of York, part of Godolphin Racing's European division, won the $2 million Juvenile.

Mickelson rallies to win HSBC Champions

SHANGHAI (AP)—Phil Mickelson won the HSBC Champions on Sunday by rallying against a familiar foe.

Only it wasn't Tiger Woods.

Mickelson made an 18-footer to save par on the 16th after whiffing on a flop shot, then holed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th to close with a 3-under 69 and overcome a late charge by Ernie Els, who was in the lead until hitting into the water and making bogey on the final hole.

Woods was never a factor in the final World Golf Championship of the year, falling six shots behind on the front nine and doing well to stay on the leaderboard the rest of the way. He hit into the water with his third shot on the par-5 18th and had to scramble for bogey to close with a 72 and tie for fifth, five shots behind.

It was the third time in his last four tries that Woods played in the final group without winning.

Mickelson finished at 17-under 271 and earned $1.2 million in winning his second WGC event of the year. It was the first time he won a tournament while playing in the final group with Woods.

As clutch as Mickelson was down the stretch, Els was the opposite.

The South African, devastated when Mickelson beat him with a birdie on the final hole of the 2004 Masters, was 10 under for his round and had a one-shot lead playing the 538-yard 18th. From the middle of the fairway, he went at the green with a fairway metal and landed in the middle of the lake.

Els had 218 yards to the front of the green on a downslope in the fairway, not enough for him to hit 4-iron, while a 3-iron might go over the green and down the bank into the water. He opted to hit a high cut with his 5-wood and "basically duffed it."

"But I can't think about that," Els said, who started the round seven shots behind. "For me to come back all the way, to actually share the lead at that point, was quite nice. I'm disappointed about that, but I'm going to really think about the 63 I shot."

AP

American Phil Mickelson watches the flight of the ball he hit at the 7th tee during the third round of the 2009 HSBC Champions golf tournament at Shanghai Sheshan International Golf Club Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 in Shanghai, China.

Els settled for a share of the course record at Sheshan International, a 9-under 63 matched earlier in the day by Rory McIlroy, who finished fourth, and Daisuke Maruyama of Japan.

Els waited in the scoring trailer for Mickelson to finish, and Lefty tried to keep it interesting. He drove into the massive gallery lining the left side of the fairway, then hit into the left rough just short of a bunker. But he hit wedge safely to the middle of the green, and rolled his birdie putt within tap-in range for another victory.

Mickelson won for the fourth time this year, tying a career best.

Ryan Moore, who only qualified for the HSBC Champions by winning his first PGA Tour title in August, closed with a 68 and finished alone in third, which should be enough to move him into the top 50 in the world.

Even with Woods out of the way, Mickelson has a way to keeping it entertaining.

Despite birdies on the 13th and 14th to keep him in the race with Els, it was a par that turned the tournament in his favor.

Mickelson was left of the 288-yard 16th green in short rough, a pot bunker separating him from the flag. Mickelson went for a high flop shot, and was stunned when the club slid through the grass and barely moved the ball.

He tried a bump-and-run that came up short and appeared destined to make bogey. His putt came off the hump of the green, and Mickelson pointed to the cup with his putter as it took one last turn to the left and dropped for par.

"I thought that was one of the best putts I've made in a long time," Mickelson said. "When I made that putt—I didn't know what Ernie was doing on 18—but I knew I had a chance."

McIlroy's strong finish for fourth place allowed him to move into second place behind Lee Westwood in the Race to Dubai with one only tournament remaining before the Dubai World Championship and the $7.5 million bonus pool.

"It certainly gives me a lot of momentum going into the next two weeks," McIlroy said. "Hopefully, it's a bit of a springboard into the next two weeks. Looking forward to it now."

Woods couldn't wait to get out of China, where he had finished second his previous two trips to the HSBC Champions.

"Anything that could go wrong went wrong for me today," Woods said.

Starting the round two shots behind, and playing in the final group with his chief nemesis for the first time in more than four years, Woods missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the second hole and a 10-foot birdie on the third. He followed that by hitting his tee shot into the water on the fourth for double bogey.

Then came a camera click on his tee shot at the seventh, leading security officials to manhandle one spectator back inside the ropes, and temporarily strip the credentials from a Reuters photographer who they thought had taken the picture early. He eventually was allowed to stay on the job.

Woods was on the verge of shooting 40 on the front nine until making his first birdie, then he followed with two more birdies at Nos. 10 and 11. By then, he simply was too far behind.

"I didn't really envision shooting even par today," Woods said. "I would have had to have shot 67 to get into a playoff. So the guys took it deep, and I didn't."

Mickelson now heads into a long winter's break. Sunday was his final round of the year, and he now takes three months off before starting his 2010 season at Torrey Pines in late January.

Pro Bowler Ty Law signs with Broncos

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Ty Law spent the first half of the season waiting for the right team to come calling. Now that it has, he doesn't want to waste any more time getting back on the field.

Law came out of what he called "semiretirement" Saturday to join the Denver Broncos and counts on contributing Monday night when the Pittsburgh Steelers bring three wide receivers to Invesco Field who are averaging more than 14 yards per catch.

"They're trying to get me ready to play this week in a limited fashion," Law said. "I did it last year."

The 15-year veteran joined the Jets at midseason in 2008 and played aplenty a few days later against New England.

"I'm just going to kind of wing it and go out and do the best I can," Law said. "But right now they're just shoving a lot down my throat because the terminology is totally different."

The 35-year-old Law gives the Broncos five players in the defensive backfield who are older than 30. Law said it was comforting to join a seasoned secondary that features Champ Bailey, Andre' Goodman, Renaldo Hill and Brian Dawkins.

"It's different between walking into a situation where you've got a bunch of young guys, a bunch of first- and second-year guys. This is perfect. I can take my time and learn the system because it's already established and all I'm doing is trying to help," Law said.

The five-time Pro Bowl cornerback passed his physical and practiced with the Broncos on Saturday, trying to acclimate himself to the altitude after signing what was believed to be a one-year deal.

Law, who gives the Broncos a defensive backfield that now sports a combined 20 Pro Bowl selections, also is familiar with Denver coach Josh McDaniels, who was an assistant with the Patriots during his time in New England.

Law helped New England to three Super Bowl titles. He signed with the Jets in 2005 after being released by the Patriots, and had a career-high 10 interceptions and was voted to the Pro Bowl. He was released by the Jets after that season and followed coach Herm Edwards to Kansas City, where he played two years before being cut in the offseason.

"He gives us some depth at corner. He played obviously a long time in this league. He knows how to play inside, outside and he's in good shape and ready to go," McDaniels said. "We feel like hopefully it will take us take a step forward."

To make room on the roster, the Broncos waived defensive back Jack Williams. Law's signing also likely means reduced playing time in the nickel and dime packages for rookie Alphonso Smith.

Two of the Broncos' last three opposing quarterbacks—New England's Tom Brady and Baltimore's Joe Flacco targeted Denver's third cornerback with great success.

Law had been training in Florida and said he hadn't counted on staying on the sideline much longer.

"I trained to play. I wouldn't be out there if I didn't," he said. "(I) had some closure in my career as far as what I've done and what I've accomplished. I've accomplished a lot of things. But I still had the itch."

Law said he spurned other teams' offers this season and never expected the Broncos to call, but jumped at the chance when he heard from McDaniels. He said he later heard Indianapolis had some interest, too.

But this seemed like the perfect fit.

"First, I'm familiar with a lot of their guys here. They're hungry. They're winning and then, my familiarity with Josh McDaniels. I've won a few championships with him," Law said. "Other than going back to New England, this would be the ideal situation for me.

"There are a bunch of guys out there hungry to get a championship and that's what I'm looking for, to try and capture another championship before I shut down for good."

Roethlisberger's accuser in suit quits casino job

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The woman who filed a lawsuit accusing Ben Roethlisberger of raping her has quit her job at the Lake Tahoe hotel-casino where she claims the assault occurred in the NFL quarterback's penthouse room more than a year ago.

The woman had been working as a VIP host at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in July 2008 when she alleges the two-time Super Bowl champ for the Pittsburgh Steelers lured her to his room under false pretenses and forced himself on her. He was in town playing in a celebrity golf tournament.

Her lawyer, Cal Dunlap, said Friday she quit "because of the way Harrah's was treating her." He told The Associated Press he can't go into detail.

Dunlap said the woman took several leaves of absence for medical reasons in the months after the alleged incident, but returned to work in March and had been there since.

Harrah's officials did not immediately return a telephone call or e-mail seeking comment.

The woman filed the suit in Washoe District Court in Reno last July.

Roethlisberger's lawyers asked the state Supreme Court to overturn a ruling by a district judge denying their motion to move the trial to Douglas County, closer to Lake Tahoe. No hearing has been set for that request.

Last month, Judge Brent Adams also denied a motion to dismiss the suit. It seeks a minimum of $440,000 in damages from Roethlisberger and at least $50,000 in damages from Harrah's officials who the woman claims conspired to cover up the incident.

Roethlisberger has denied the allegations and maintains the woman acted voluntarily at all times while in his room.

Manny Pacquiao: I'm 100% prepared

BOXING

HOLLYWOOD—Sun Tzu's philosophy is getting a ringside twist with each passing day leading to the Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto showdown for the WBO welterweight belt on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The legendary Chinese military commander, largely credited as the author of the iconic "The Art of War," has cast—however inadvertently—his influence in the training camp of both marquee fighters.

And where Sun Tzu preaches that if you know the enemy and you know yourself, you can win a thousand battles, Buboy Fernandez, a key member of Pacquiao's corner and the fighter's close friend, believes that knowing what the enemy knows and using it against him guarantees victory just as well.

"They said that they've studied Manny's fight against (Juan Manuel) Marquez and they've spotted a weakness," Fernandez said in Filipino. "Well, we've watched the tape and we know what weakness they're talking about and we have a counter for that."

Taking a page from Taoist strategizing that calls on gathering knowledge of the enemy, Team Cotto revealed that it is using flaws it discovered by watching videos of Pacquiao's last fight against nemesis Marquez to derail the Filipino ring icon, who is eyeing an unprecedented seventh world crown.

Fernandez feels that advantage was just blown away.

During mitts training Friday, Fernandez, chief trainer Freddie Roach and Pacquiao repeatedly went through different strategies to hold the hook-throwing Cotto off his element.

Pacquiao himself had earlier said "knowledge is power," and that what they've learned so far is exactly what they're preparing for.

"I can say right now that I am 100 percent prepared for this fight," Pacquiao said.

The fighter from Gen. Santos City was upbeat during training yesterday, unleashing rapid combinations with ferocious tenacity that had Roach asking Pacquiao to "slow down" several times.

During one particular series during mitts training, Roach got tagged in his armor-cushioned body and drew a deep breath.

"I said slow," said Roach. "That was slow," quipped Pacquiao.

When Pacquiao put an end to eight hard rounds of mitts exercises by knocking off Roach's right mitt, observers milling around the ring couldn't help but murmuring about how Cotto could end up on his back on fight night.

The only guy who wasn't buying it was Pacquiao.

"I'm not even thinking of knocking him out," he said during a post-training interview with a television crew and a handful of reporters. "I'm just going to give my best and if a knockout comes, it will be a bonus."

Of course, Sun Tzu also preached about the rewards of deception. And Pacquiao might simply be lulling Cotto to a false sense of complacency.

But Cotto himself said Pacquiao is headed for a surprise on fight night.

"I plan on going home to Puerto Rico as the winner," Cotto told reporters during his press preview Tuesday. "We wouldn't have taken this if we didn't think I'd be at my best." ***(PDI)***

Chamolinian softball league meeting tonight

The Chamolinian Softball Association is calling on representatives of interested teams in the 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League to attend a mandatory meeting tonight at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz also reminded teams that the $400 entrance fee and copy of rosters are due today and participating squads should bring them at the meeting.

The league will kick off on Nov. 16 at the Capital Hill Ballfield and as of last week 17 teams had already expressed an interest in joining the men's division and two in the women's category. However, only the first 15 teams (men's division) to pay the entrance fee will be allowed to compete in next week's league. The women's division is open to five squads.

The Chamolinian league will have a round robin format for the regular season in the men's division with the Top 10 teams advancing to the double-elimination playoffs. The women's division will implement a three-round robin format with the Top 4 squads marching to the playoff round, which will have double-elimination format.

Matches will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The women's games will be played only every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Games in the men's division every Monday and Friday will be at 6:30pm (first game) and 8:30pm (second game). There will be three matches in the men's division every Wednesday. All teams are guaranteed to play once a week.

To register or for more information, contact Dela Cruz at 483-4185 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869. ***(PR)***

EAGLES

From Page 28

when GCA scored on an ace from Genesis Manglona and a spike from Daniel Camacho.

Manglona scored another point near the net to grab the lead, 13-12, but Mt. Carmel quickly tied it, 13-all, after Kadmiel Rey's service went out of the backline.

After a short rally, the Eagles moved a point away from ending the game and clinching the championship when the Knights committed a costly error. Ian Rogolifoi hustled for the ball after a teammate made a wide return to the left sideline, but when he hit the leather, the ball went off the left side of the antenna, prompting umpire Gabriel White to award a point to GCA.

With the Eagles' faith on his hands, Manglona served for the match point and hit a game-winning ace when his strong service headed to the backline and Sablan failed to return it.

"I was nervous because it was a crucial game. However, I was still confident I could make it," Manglona said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the thrilling finals.

Manglona and Camacho were the only two players from the GCA roster last year to suit up for the Eagles, anew this season.

"We're basically a young team with only two players from last year's roster returning this season. However, ours was a young fighting team. Even through we were a few points away from losing the finals, our players did not give up. They hung in there, trusted each other, and continued to play as a team," said coach Fred Fatialofa, who won his first title on a return to coaching duty with the Eagles after taking a break for three years.

"I coached them three years ago and did not win, so I am really proud and honored to be given another opportunity to coach this great team," he added.

Besides Rey, Manglona, and Daniel Camacho, other members of the GCA Eagles' junior high school team are Keena Ta, Claire Chingkoe, Alyssa Legaspi, Rinel Chargualaf, Khemner Sugue, Jun Kitagawa, Julie Muna, Katrina Kruz, Luke Camacho, Kimiko Tenorio, John Cano, Josiah Trinidad, and Chris Cajigan. Also on the team is assistant coach Alvin Owens.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, Whispering Palms swept Marianas Baptist Academy, 25-12, 25-22.

MCCULLOUGH

From Page 28

most valuable player in the junior high school division.

McCullough-Stearns was selected among players from the nine-team field and earned the nods of the judges after leading Whispering Palms to the pennant championship. McCullough-Stearns and company recorded a 15-1 mark in the regular season to gain the top seeding in the playoffs.

Whispering Palms then drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs and McCullough-Stearns helped the Terns advance to the semifinals via a 25-9, 25-17 sweep of Seventh Day Adventist.

McCullough-Stearns' presence near the net was a plus for Whispering Palms, as he was the other beneficiary of tosser Jake Lee's set-up plays when teammate Christian Miller was not available.

In the semifinals, Clay McCullough-Stearns still played his A game, but Whispering Palms fell short of earning a return trip to the finals when it bowed to eventual champion Grace Christian Academy in the semis in three sets, 25-10, 23-25, 7-15.

After the finals game between GCA and Mt. Carmel, McCullough-Stearns and other top individual performers of the league were feted in a brief award ceremony.

McCullough-Stearns received his MVP trophy while outstanding players from each teams were given medals.

Named as outstanding players of their respective squads were Miller of Whispering Palms, Regis Perez of Calvary Christian Academy, Daniel Camacho of GCA, Ian Rogolifoi of Mt. Carmel, Eron Constante of Saipan Community School, Ruby Kim of SDA, Jacinia Richards of MBA, Allan Cepeda of Saipan International School-Blue, and Andrew Johnson of SIS-Green.

High school playoffs today

Meanwhile, the first round of the playoffs in the high school division will begin today.

Pennant champion GCA will take on the last-placed Northern Marianas Academy in the second game at 4:30pm, while the fourth-seed CCA Sharks will duel the SIS-Green Geckos in the first match at 3:30pm.

The playoffs will continue tomorrow with the second-ranked MBA-A battling the seventh-seeded MBA-B at 4:30pm and the third-picked SIS-Blue squaring off with the sixth-ranked Mt. Carmel at 3:30pm.

MATANSA

From Page 28

a pair of goals and Andrea Camacho made one in Matansa's triumph in the Oct. 31 game.

After five games, Matansa now has 15 points and has scored 16 points. Paire FC is in second place with six points after posting a 2-0-2 win-draw-loss slate and has earned three goals, courtesy of Tricia Ingram.

MP United is at the bottom of the team standings in the girls' U13 division with its 1-0-3 mark. MP United has gained three points and in four games had scored only one goal (from Corina Mae Suda).

In the boys' U13 division, MP United-Blue duplicated Matansa's fete as the former also improved to a 5-0 mark, following a 1-0 win over Paire FC.

Jake Lee drilled the lone goal in the game, bringing his total for the season to six and giving him the solo lead in the goal race. Teammates Andrew Johnson and Jehn Joyner have five each, while MP United-White's Aaron Lee and Jordan Butcher-Wade, MP United-Blue's Chris Park, Matansa FC's Sean Perez, and Paire FC's Hunter Jewell and Ju Young Kim have four apiece.

In other results in the boys' U13 division, MP United-White ended Tan Holdings FC-1's two-game winning run via a 2-1 triumph in the second game, while Independents FC blanked Tan Holdings FC-2, 4-0. Matansa drew a bye in Week 5.

After the Oct. 31 games, MP United-Blue now has 15 points to strengthen its hold to the top spot, followed by Matansa (10 points), Paire (9), MP United-White (7), Tan Holdings FC-1 (6), Independents (5), and Tan Holdings FC-2 (0).

The U13 division and the three other age groups had their last playing week on Saturday and players in all four categories will gather at the Hopwood field this Saturday for the 2009 NMIFA Football Fall Festival.

Week 6 games had Matansa facing Paire, Tan Holdings FC-1 dueling sister team Tan Holdings FC-2, and MP United-Blue battling Independents.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	1	.875	—
Philadelphia	3	2	.600	2 1/2
Toronto	3	3	.500	3
New York	1	6	.143	5 1/2
New Jersey	0	7	.000	6 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	5	1	.833	—
Orlando	5	1	.833	—
Atlanta	5	2	.714	1/2
Charlotte	3	3	.500	2
Washington	2	4	.333	3

Central Division

Chicago	4	2	.667	—
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	1/2
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1/2
Indiana	2	3	.400	1 1/2
Detroit	2	4	.333	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	4	2	.667	—
Houston	4	2	.667	—
San Antonio	2	3	.400	1 1/2
New Orleans	2	4	.333	2
Memphis	1	6	.143	3 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	5	2	.714	—
Portland	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	2	3	.400	2
Utah	2	4	.333	2 1/2
Minnesota	1	5	.167	3 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	5	1	.833	—
Phoenix	5	1	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Sacramento	2	4	.333	3
Golden State	1	3	.250	3

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 125, Denver 100
Boston 86, New Jersey 76
Chicago 93, Charlotte 90
Milwaukee 102, New York 87
Dallas 129, Toronto 101
Sacramento 104, Utah 99
L.A. Clippers 113, Memphis 110

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	6	75	54	207	34.5
Anthony, DEN	6	63	57	190	31.7
Martin, SAC	5	47	42	153	30.6
Bosh, TOR	5	43	55	145	29.0
Paul, NOR	6	62	34	171	28.5
Wade, MIA	6	54	56	168	28.0
James, CLE	7	62	48	184	26.3
Nowitzki, DAL	5	40	47	131	26.2
Arenas, WAS	6	49	42	151	25.2
Roy, POR	6	45	51	151	25.2
Durant, OKC	5	42	34	121	24.2
Gordon, DET	6	44	48	145	24.2
Williams, UTA	5	43	24	116	23.2
Granger, IND	5	36	27	114	22.8
Kaman, LAC	6	57	21	135	22.5
Harrington, NYK	6	46	35	134	22.3
Johnson, ATL	6	48	25	127	21.2
Ellis, GOL	4	32	17	83	20.8
Gay, MEM	6	49	18	123	20.5
Randolph, MEM	6	51	21	123	20.5

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	40	59	.678
Dampier, DAL	20	30	.667
Blair, SAN	19	29	.655
Paul, NOR	62	97	.639
Perkins, BOS	28	45	.622
Hayes, HOU	23	37	.622
Speights, PHL	25	41	.610
O'Neal, MIA	37	61	.607
Hilario, DEN	28	47	.596
Kaman, LAC	57	96	.594

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Wallace, CHA	5	16	58	74	14.8
Howard, ORL	6	22	49	71	11.8
Bosh, TOR	5	15	44	59	11.8
Duncan, SAN	5	14	45	59	11.8
Gasol, MEM	6	22	48	70	11.7
Haywood, WAS	6	22	43	65	10.8
Lee, NYK	6	18	47	65	10.8
Okafor, NOR	6	19	45	64	10.7
Camby, LAC	6	13	51	64	10.7
Randolph, MEM	6	28	35	63	10.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	6	66	11.0
Rondo, BOS	7	69	9.9
Paul, NOR	6	59	9.8
Williams, UTA	5	44	8.8
Kidd, DAL	5	43	8.6
James, CLE	7	56	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	5	39	7.8
Brooks, HOU	6	46	7.7
B. Davis, LAC	6	45	7.5
Duhon, NYK	6	42	7.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS

Boys U13

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United-Blue	5	5	0	0	32	3	+29	15
Matansa FC	5	3	1	1	11	6	+5	10
Paire FC	5	3	0	2	18	4	14	9
MP United-White	6	2	1	3	11	20	-9	7
Tan Holdings FC-1	5	2	0	3	8	8	0	6
Independent FC	5	1	2	2	5	7	-2	5
Tan Holdings FC-2	5	0	0	5	0	39	-39	0

Girls U13

Matansa FC	5	5	0	0	16	0	16	15
Paire FC	4	2	0	2	3	4	-1	6
MP United	4	1	0	3	1	7	-6	3

The Week in Sports

Student-athletes put on a show

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Student-athletes gathered last week for the playoff round of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League and played several exciting games to bring life to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in four lazy afternoons.

The playoffs started last Monday with three matches: Marianas Baptist Academy vs. Calvary Christian Academy; Mt. Carmel School vs. Saipan Community School, and Seventh Day Adventist vs. Saipan International School-Blue.

MBA and MCS swept their respective foes to advance to the semifinals, while SDA topped SIS-Blue to earn the right to face erstwhile champion Whispering Palms in the next round.

Whispering Palms drew a bye in the first round after ruling the regular season with its 15-1 record. The Navy Hill-based school went on to move into the next round after thwarting SDA and later faced Grace Christian Academy in the semifinals.

The semifinal round was played on Thursday with MCS sweeping MBA in the first semis match, 25-18, 25-23. The second Final Four tiff was a more exciting game with the GCA Eagles setting an old score and dethroning Whispering Palms via a hard-earned win in three sets, 10-25, 25-23, 15-7.

A fitting finale was set for Friday and again, GCA escaped with a three set triumph to claim the championship that eluded them last season.

The Ada gym was busy last week, as the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League played make-up games at night after the indoor volleyball action from the private school league.

The G-Stars won two games last week to remain unbeaten in the youth caging. The G-Stars first routed Hi-5, 64-34, and then edged the Sonics, 47-46.

In other results, the Chalan Kanoa Saints downed the Celtics, 60-38, on Tuesday before bowing to 670 Rollers II on Thursday, 45-55. Thursday action had Rollers Basketball Club sweeping their games, as Young 670 Rollers also prevailed against Hi-5, 47-43.

Duplicating the G-Stars' two victories in a week was 670 Rollers II, which slipped past the Runnin' Rebels,' 45-44. The Sixers were the other team to win last week, whipping Young 670 Rollers, 69-54.

With the Rotary caging making up for lost time after suspending the league for more than three weeks, the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League took a weeklong break and will resume action this week.

While student-athletes were putting up a show in basketball and indoor volleyball leagues here last week, Marianas High School's Ji Hoon Heo was in Korea for the 2009 Asian/Oceania Closed Championships.

The tournament in Jeju-do was Heo's biggest so far, but unfortunately he lost both his singles and doubles matches in the first round.

Joining Heo in Korea was CNMI coach Jeff Race and Pacific Oceania teammates Steffi Carruthers of Samoa and Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea.

Back in local action, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and American Red Cross held the first session of their five-part swim clinic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The Halloween-themed initial session drew 58 individuals.

The week ended with NMASA selecting paddler Richard Sikkel as the male athlete of the month (October) for leading Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club to the overall championship in the 11th Micronesian Cup outrigger canoe competition last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kadmiel Rey returns to Whispering Palms during their game in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms' Christian Miller goes for a spike during their semis game against Grace Christian Academy in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marystar Welch teaches a participant to float during the first part of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and American Red Cross-led swim clinic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ji Hoon Heo, left, and CNMI coach Jeff Race were in Jeju-do, Korea last week for the 2009 Asian/Oceania Closed Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The G-Stars' Raymark Castro pulls up for a jumper, while his teammates looks on during their game against the Sonics in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Richard Sikkel, rear, was named male athlete of the month (for October) for steering Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club to the overall championship in the 11th Micronesian Cup outrigger canoe competition last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Hi-5 player drives to the baseline against Young 670 Rollers defenders during their game in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Student-athletes put on a show

Student-athletes gathered last week for the playoff round of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League and played several exciting games to bring life to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in four lazy afternoons. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics bounce back to keep Nets winless

Rajon Rondo and Paul Pierce each scored 16 points, and the Boston Celtics bounced back from their first loss of the season to beat the winless New Jersey Nets 86-76 on Saturday night. 24

Eagles soar to volleyball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy bagged the championship it missed last year after pulling off a come-from-behind win against Mt. Carmel School in their title game in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles survived the Knights in a three- set finale, 25-11, 13-25, 15-13, to rule the junior high school division of the indoor volleyball league.

GCA, which bowed to Whispering Palms in three sets last year, 10-25, 25-23, 15-7, seemed headed for another disastrous finish, as Mt. Carmel was three points away from wrapping up the finals.

The Knights began the deciding third set strong, taking an 8-3 lead and made it a 12-6 count after Jared Sablan hit an ace.

A side out broke Mt. Carmel's rally and started GCA's comeback, as the Eagles scored four straight points off the Knights' errors to move within two, 10-12.

Coach Rommel Calcena sued for time, hoping to stop the bleeding for Mt. Carmel, but his prayers were left unanswered in the next three plays

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The GCA Eagles flash the No. 1 sign after beating Mt. Carmel School and ruling the junior high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

McCullough-Stearns takes MVP trophy

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Whispering Palms' Clay McCullough-Stearns is all smiles after receiving the MVP trophy in the junior high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms' Clay McCullough-Stearns claimed the coveted individual award in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League after being named as the

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Payment scheme for Micro Games set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has set a payment scheme for CNMI athletes/teams wishing to represent the Commonwealth in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau next year.

NMASA president Michael White informed members during the association's monthly meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Thursday that the estimated cost for the Palau trip per person is $950.

He added NMASA will shoulder $250 of the total cost, leaving athletes/teams to foot the remaining $700.

The $700 will be divided into four payments. Each athlete or official going to Palau for the Micronesian Games will pay $175 for four months, starting in February next year.

White said NMASA will be strict with the implementation of the payment scheme. If an athlete or team misses one of the four monthly payments, they will not be allowed to be part of "Team Marianas."

The mode of payment and

White

NMASA's share of the bill were discussed and agreed upon during the association's separate board meeting held late last month.

White pointed out these may still be subjected for consideration by the board, but he encouraged members to work on this payment scheme to get things moving as far as preparations for the Micro Games are concerned.

"We may or may not get financial assistance from the government, so this is the best way to get things in order as far the cost of each delegate's trip to Palau is concerned," White said.

White added the board may also hold further discussions for the case of sports federations, such as baseball and basketball, which are expected to experience some problems in finding funding for their bigger delegation. The CNMI is the defending champion in baseball and women's basketball.

Besides baseball and basketball, 13 other sports are lined up in the Micro Games' calendar. These are lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling. The multi-sports event will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

The CNMI hosted the sixth edition of the Micro Games in 2006 and was runner-up to Guam in the overall medal standings.

The Commonwealth finished with the most medals with 98, but claimed only 34 gold, 33 silver, and 31 bronze to place second behind Guam, which had a 51-27-18 tally. Palau was third with its 27 gold, 16 silver, and 21 bronze medals. Chuuk notched six gold, 10 silver, and 12 bronze, Pohnpei had a 5-15-17 tally, Kiribati had 5-7-5, the Marshall Islands had 3-5-12, Kosrae had 3-3-2, and Yap had 2-7-3.

Matansa, MP United-Blue stay on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five and still counting.

Matansa Football Club and MP United-Blue continued their winnings ways in the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League after cruising to their fifth win in Week 5 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa kept its unbeaten record in the girls' U13 division after shutting out Paire FC, 3-0. Doreen Ravell had

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MP United-Blue's Andrew Johnson uses his body to keep the ball during their game against Paire FC in Week 5 of the boys' U13 division of the NMIFA youth fall league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO